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Volume 1 Issue 5

April 1996

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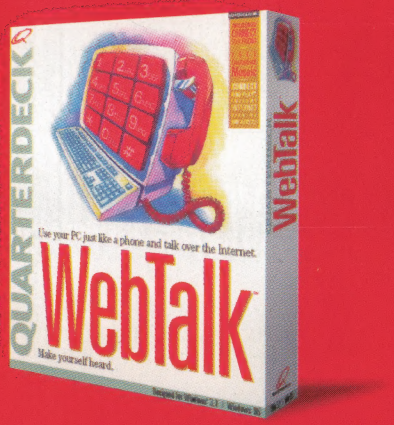

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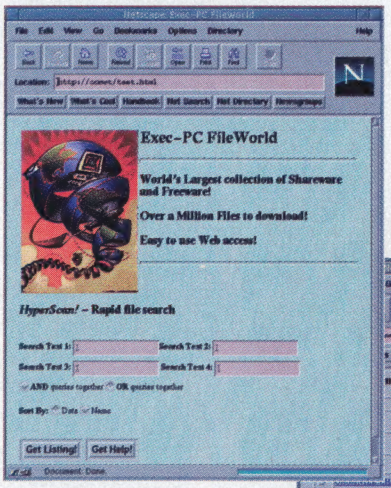

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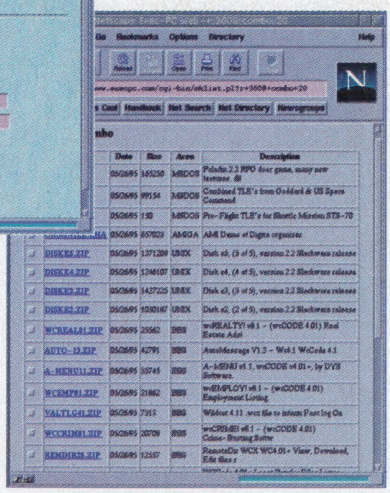

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(additional digital color enhancement by Tom DeMay and Pat Sandberg)

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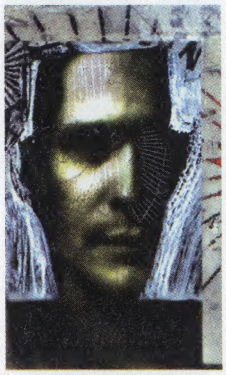
On the cover: "I've interviewed Todd four times through the years. Inevitably he'll say something that floors me, or I think is a load of crap, then he'll back it up with that consummate erudition of his, and just as inevitably, I'll buy it," says *IU* contributing editor Eric Snider. "This time it was when he talked about *giving* his music away. Huh? A minute later it made perfect sense." (Snider4@aol.com)



Formerly from Asheville, N.C., where he taught illustration and design at Western Carolina University, illustrator **Rich Borge** ("Surf Conditions") is currently teaching at The School of Visual Arts in New York City. While he complains that it's difficult to find a good bowl of grits in the Big Apple, he's pleased with all the weird, but interesting garbage lying abandoned in the streets of the city—it makes for great artwork material. Although we like to pretend we found him first, Borge has also done illustration and design work for AT&T, MTV, Polygram Records, Reebok, Sony, *Raygun* and *Time* magazines, to name a few. (gravityWKS@aol.com)

"When I tried to do it as a disinterested party, it didn't work," says contributing editor **David Allen,** who profiled The Goodbye Page in this issue ("Digital Immortality"). Allen found the page while researching 12-step programs online for *IU*'s March issue. Allen writes about grief first-hand; his mother was killed in a car accident in December. "The thing that touched me about The Goodbye Page was that after spending years on the 'net and watching people flame each other back and forth, here was someone who was on the 'net for a completely unselfish reason. That's what the Internet should be about." (dallen@nr.infi.net)

Always searching for new ways to communicate with the world, **Sharon Marson** took the photos for the "Digital Immortality" article with a pinhole camera she made and a toy camera she found at a junk store. Art Director Tom DeMay adds: "In a world of high technology and user-(not-so)-friendly machines, it's reassuring and refreshing to know a person like Sharon Marson is out there, keeping us honest and making us feel at times both comfortable and uncomfortable with her unshakable convictions about humanity, design and communication." She has no e-mail address.

Beth Rosenberg ("Religion On the 'Net") is a freelance writer based out of Martha's Vineyard, Mass., who specializes in technology and popular culture. Her articles have appeared in the *Boston Globe, The Christian Science Monitor, SunExpert* and *Boston* magazines. She is at work on a "comedy of manners" about the rise and fall of a small software company, that she hopes to finish before the birth of her first baby (due this August). Beth laments the lack of a decent online *havurah* and looks forward to the day that the great state of Hawaii will officiate lesbian unions. (beth@vineyard.net)

When it comes to getting the FAQs, there's no escaping *IU* Editor at Large, **Simson Garfinkel.** Last month he exposed the "Myths of the Internet," and this month delivers the truths about the Mitnick affair. (simson@vineyard.net)

Writer at Large **Justin Ware** spent many grueling hours in front of the TV for his piece this month ("History Repeats Itself?"), but he feels like he got a handle on broadcasting history, as well as a nice covered dish set from QVC. He wrote "The Land Where the Future Began," for our March issue and assembled Assistant Editor Lauren Gonzalez's desk. He is currently writing a book that has nothing to do with the Internet. We can't decide if his photo, taken for his theater career, makes him look more like an evil hypnotist or a self-help book author. (jlware@mcs.net)

This month's cover image came to us from **Jean Lannen,** a free-lance photographer now living in San Francisco (a big, *big* change after living most of her life in the Detroit area). She attended her first Todd Rundgren concert on March 24, 1974, and it changed her life forever. "I remember sneaking into sound checks with my camera and making my own backstage passes," she says. Lannen doesn't have to sneak around anymore. Since then, she has created thousands of images of Rundgren, including the cover photographs on his last four CDs. Lannen supplied *Internet Underground* with a few photos previously unpublished. "I plan on getting a computer soon and look forward to the creative mistakes that happen with inexperience!"

solve the mystery...

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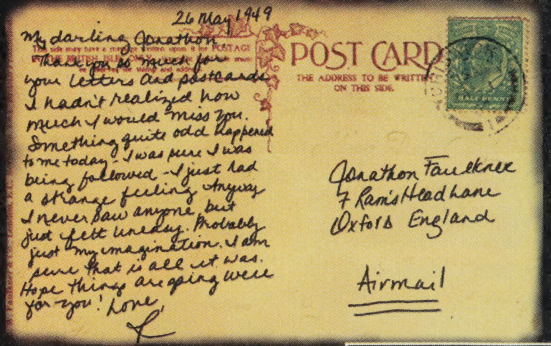
In. 14

wd

2-4



win one million dollars

THE CLUE *"In. 14 wd. [2-4]"*

HOW TO FIND THE CLUE

The scene depicts a postcard. Outside the image of the postcard, to the left, are two hints to this clue.

The first hint is "In. 14" which signifies that you should look on the written line fourteen of the postcard. You count the number of lines starting with the date line as line one. The second hint is "wd. [2-4]" which tells you to look at words two, three, and four on line fourteen.

THE ANSWER *"...that is all..."*

is in the phrase in the quote which solves the mystery of the bedroom in Treasure Quest™. You must determine the entire quote for the bedroom, and the entire quote for nine other rooms, to ultimately solve the mystery of Treasure Quest™ and win one million dollars.

1

We know April can be a stressful month. First and foremost, it means taxes are due. If you're not paying taxes yet, then it usually means your thesis or term papers are due. And for our younger readers, April is that special time when top colleges decide whether or not you're worthy enough to come study in their esteemed halls.

With all of this weighing on your mind this month, we didn't want to do anything more to further stress you out. So, we rummaged through all our old letters to see what we could do to make your life just that much easier.

Your number-one complaint through our first four issues was, thankfully, not about our content, but rather about our packaging. It seems a great many of you just hated the wrapped-for-your-sanitation polybag that encased *IU*. Whether readers considered it environmentally irresponsible or just felt cheated since they couldn't leaf through it for free at the local bookstore, the prevailing opinion came through loud and clear: LOSE THE PLASTIC! We listened: Welcome to issue five, coming to you for the first time, gloriously unsheathed.

Removing the polybag from the magazine presented another problem though. Our beloved WebGuide lost its home. What to do? We mulled over many suggestions in late night strategy sessions. Some on staff thought we should make the WebGuide an entirely different magazine, while others put forth the idea that we scrap *IU* altogether and publish just the WebGuide in its place. Still others suggested that we rent crop dusters and drop the WebGuide upon plowmen in nearby corn fields in hopes of inspiring an information revolution. In the end, all of these options seemed impractical. Stumped, we turned to Tiny, the mail guy, for help. "Why don't you just incorporate the WebGuide into the magazine?" he meekly proposed. Like characters in a Saturday morning cartoon, we sat there with lightbulbs clicking on over our heads. Of course, incorporate it into the magazine, now why didn't we think of that?

2

3

So, to make a long story a little longer, you'll notice that the back fifth of this month's issue is inhabited by the beloved WebGuide.

Beyond those cosmetic changes, you'll notice some new names popping up in our pages. Rob Bernstein has joined the staff as our new news editor. Rob is recognized worldwide as a person in the know with a nose for news, so you can imagine how happy we are to have him on staff. A graduate of esteemed Amherst College, Rob previously worked as senior editor for *INsider* magazine and as news editor for *FUSION* magazine. We're so sure you'll like the way he covers the news on the 'net that, if for any reason you're not satisfied, we'll gladly refund you your money.*

4

The other new face belongs to Lauren Gonzalez, who has now taken over the duty of compiling the aforementioned WebGuide. Lauren comes to *IU*, fresh from a stint working as a private investigator. In fact, she noted in her interview that the act of conducting a stakeout has many parallels to surfing the Web for good sites. In both cases, you spend time sitting on your duff, eating Andy Capp Hot Fries and drinking Orange Crush, while waiting for something to happen. When it's all said and done though, Lauren says she's much happier searching for five-star Web sites than staking out cheating husbands.

Last of all, we'd like to formally introduce our online companion, the Underground Online at http://www.underground-online.com. We won't bore you with a description of all you'll find there, but suffice it to say, if you like the magazine, you'll love our Web site. And even if you don't like the magazine, you'll love our Web site, so visit early and visit often. Online editor Sarah Ellerman and our Webmaster Troy Brophy have been working overtime to make your online experience a pleasant one. Be sure to drop them a note to let them know what you think. And let us know what you think about the other changes in the magazine. But above all, don't let this month stress you out. File for an extension.

>.HYPER LINK

"APRIL IS THE LOUSIEST MONTH"

—PARAPHRASING T.S. ELLIOT

*Offer not valid in the U.S., Canada or anywhere else. See terms of Geneva Convention, 1942.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

I'M AN AMATEUR WRITER, I'M FUNKY, MY FOLKS THINK I'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING... I HAVE A BURNING A PUSHING A BAM BOOM POW I HAVE A LOVE AND A DESIRE, I WRITE, I LOVE. I LOVE TO WRITE. BUT THAT LOVE ISN'T ENOUGH FOR SOME, I'M SUPPOSED TO PRODUCE VIABLE OFF-SPRING TO PLEASE THE PRIMATES, I NEED A RED BADGE OF COURAGE, THE PASSION NEEDS A SYMBOL A SYMBOLIC FIGURE-HEADISH LINK TO THE OUTSIDE, I NEED PROOF IN THE PUDDING. SO I WANT TO WRITE. AND IF YOU LIKE IT, YOU MIGHT PUBLISH IT... IF YOU DON'T, YOU MIGHT PUBLISH IT WITH AN ADDRESS AT WHICH I MIGHT BE REACHED AND CHOKED BY THE LAME MASSES OF PINK HUMANS. HELL, PUBLISH THIS LETTER, MAYBE THAT'LL MAKE THE PRIMATES HAPPY, THEY CAN HANG IT ON THE FRIDGEIF-----GDAIR LIKE SOME KIND OF TAR BABY KINDERGARTEN ART PROJECT... THAT WOULD SERVE ME RIGHT...SO, IF YOU HAVE WRITER'S GUIDELINES, OR IF YOU WANT SOMETHING WRITTEN, I'LL WRITE IT. I'LL WRITE ABOUT SLACKWARE OR KITCHEN KNIVES OR THE DEAD KENNEDIES. WHATEVER.

YOUR HOST AND MINE,

TV's MOLLER

MOLLER@OVNET.COM

e-mail

TO: THE *IU* EDITORS
FROM: TINY, THE MAIL GUY

Well, it's been a tough month down here in the mail room. It was really cold and even though Ovi and I brought down this space heater, we had to leave our gloves on as we answered all the mail. All these Van Halen fans wrote hostile letters and some of them hurt my feelings. After all, I like them; Ovi and I even listened to *1984* this month. More than 20 people from the Van Halen mailing list sent us this kind of e-mail, so I thought you should see some of it. Other than that, it was pretty nice. Oh yeah, be sure to remind readers that sometimes I have to edit their letters.

A FRESH LETTER!

Mentos, Mentos, I love Mentos! The article in the January 1996 issue (by Alex Gordon) was fantastic! Kudos! I enjoyed the fresh views you put into your 'zine. In fact, just today, I bought the February Issue. I think the Web Guide™ is spoon! Anyway, can I get a back issue of your first issue?

J.S. Kraling
jkraling@iastate.edu

SAYS TINY: MANY PEOPLE HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT GETTING BACK COPIES OF ISSUE #1. WE HAVE VERY FEW LEFT, SO THEY ARE NOW SELLING FOR $20. SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO INTERNET UNDERGROUND TO ISSUE #1, INTERNET UNDERGROUND, 1920 HIGHLAND AVE., LOMBARD IL 60148.

I just read the Flamethrower column in *IU* #2 (by Justin Ware). You did an exceptional job in showing the ignorance, and thus prejudice, of the mainstream press toward the Internet. I have read the same columns you quote and wonder where these people get their information. If they have no experience, they should not comment. I have been on the 'net for over two years. In all that time, not once was I propositioned, shocked or solicited without my consent. I found your logic straightforward and your prose entertaining.

Thanks for being a voice of reason in a valley of chaos.

John Watson
watson@sat.net

THE DEADY WATCH: AN *IU* MONTHLY FEATURE

"...I give the magazine six months."
A.J. Deady
Columbus, Ohio

WE'RE ON ISSUE #5, MR. DEADY

GETTING INTO THE GUIDE

How could I get my web site noted in your magazine?
Chris Osberg, ozzzy@teleport.com

Tiny replies: The editors say that if you send suggestions to Webguide@mcs.com, they will consider sites for inclusion in the WebGuide section of our magazine. Obviously, we can't include them all, but we make an effort to review as many of the suggestions as we can.You could send cash, but that would violate their journalistic integrity. So send it to me.

Let me join what must be the multitude of people praising your Herculean accomplishment. The fact that you have been able to put together such a wide variety of useful information speaks volumes of your talent and ingenuity. I am dumfounded by your groundbreaking work, and marvel at how much time and effort must go into the production of such a masterpiece. Ignore your critics for they do not see your noble purpose, and gain comfort from the fact that most who read your creation see it and you for what you truly are.
David Finn
101479@MPGN.COM

IN DEFENSE OF VH

Your review of the Van Halen Web site has left me wondering where you come from? Is it the United States? Because last time I looked Van Halen had sold out every show they did in 1995. There are several places on AOL, CompuServe and the Web where VH fans hang out. There are hundreds of us on the VH e-mail list (including Valerie Bertinelli). So why did you put this article in the "Do We Really Need to Know" section? Van Halen is a very active band with millions of fans and a large internet following.
SiejeC@aol.com

This was the most f*****g biased sorry-ass piece of literature I have EVER read. How can you say something about a band after only hearing an old 8-track? I can understand an attempt at nostalgia and humor by mentioning 8-tracks but if your "magazine" is any kind of reliable source of information, you have to include the fact that Van Halen changed the sound of rock-and-roll guitar as all of you alternative trend following, band wagon jumping punks know it! Van Halen has had the MOST multi-platinum records...That's a FACT!

Jeez, I cant believe I wasted five minutes of my life writing to your pathetic magazine!! I think this is the longest I have ever been on the Internet!! I feel like a total geek... I can't even begin to imagine how all of you must feel!!!
Justin M. Krebs
jmk46247@marauder.millersv.edu

Justin: We received numerous comments on our "Do We Really Need to Know?" commentary from IU issue #2. Many came from those on the Van Halen mailing list who saw only what was reposted there, not the entire article or the context in which it was presented. Our point with that 300-word intro was not that Van Halen isn't a worthy band, but that it's sort of funny that the Web, created so that physics professors could read each others' papers, has now turned into a place where people take polls querying users on their favorite VH song. We did not hear the "old" 8-track, but played Women and Children First *until we no longer had an 8-track player. Please take it in the spirit in which it was intended; as fun and humor, not as an attack on the band.*

What we're now wondering is why you would be writing to an Internet magazine when the longest you've been on the 'net is five minutes...

WE CANNOT PLEASE EVERYONE

The Barbie page? Marilyn Monroe? Hank's babe-o-matic (or whatever)? This is underground? Sounds more like too much budget and too much time with Lycos. The only thing in your mag that was even remotely entertaining was the BBS vs. prostitute thing (*IU* #1). Wannabes: read *2600*. Read *Phrack*.
riddley@godzilla.athensnet.com

I recently picked up a copy of your second issue. Dubious at finding a magazine purporting to represent the "underground" at my local supermarket, I was nonetheless curious to see if your magazine had anything worthwhile to add to the already glutted assortment of magazines catering to the online crowd. It appears as if you are trying to make *Internet Underground* a less mainstream version of *Wired*.

Like *Wired*, you have some decent content, but, as in *Wired*, that content is nearly overwhelmed by the manner in which it is presented. Your layouts utilize vomit-inducing colors, text flows in a logic-defying fashion and typefaces change seemingly at random. For this reason, your magazine is more difficult to read than it need be, and consequently is less **enjoyable.** If you are attempting to make your magazine **"hip,"** I would suggest that anyone who makes a conscious effort to be hip probably isn't.
caulkins@teleport.com

PRODIGY TIME?

In your January '96 issue, page 42 shows a grid comparing online services. The top of the page explains that all the online services shown support Windows, DOS and Apple platforms and 28.8 bps access unless otherwise noted.

I don't know if the note was left out by mistake or if you guys just did not know, but Prodigy does not offer 28.8 bps access (at least not to me). In fact, when I saw the article I looked up the access numbers on Prodigy to change mine (my modem is 28.8). However, I laid my eyes on a page that read "Upgrade your access number to 14.400 bps!"(As if 14.4 was new? Do you get this joke? I don't. Well anyway, I just felt like telling you just in case you did not know. Write On, *IU*!
Jade T. Chaney
LLHM29A@prodigy.com

Jade: You're right, Prodigy only offers 28.8 bps access in select areas. But the word from company spokesperson, Mike Darcy, is that national rollout for the upgrade is scheduled for Spring.

WEBMASTERS ARE WATCHING

Regarding the story, "The Web Masters Are Watching," *IU* #3, it is good to see that this information is getting out. As a webmaster myself (http://dauz.com) with about 1,000 connects a day, I know firsthand the personal information that can be gleened from Web log files. Habits and general human behavior are simple to guess based on the many variables specified for each log entry. This, and the knowledge of the basic file hierarchy, give a good webmaster much insight into the heads of their visitors.
joe@dauz.com
joe dauz

write: Internet Underground attn: Tiny, the Mail Guy 1920 Highland Avenue Suite 222 Lombard, IL 60148
fax 708.916.7227

net top ten

2 Robert Altman

http://www.cea.edu/robert/x.index.html

Most likely, unsuspecting browsers happen upon this site expecting to find the famed director. However, there is so much content here, the legend o' film is quickly forgotten. Altman, a former photojournalist for *Rolling Stone*, packs his site with awesome footage of Timothy Leary, Iggy Pop, Mick Jagger, Abbie Hoffman and many other popular and subversive figures from the past four decades. Beyond the photos, there's much more to discover in this pleasure chest.

3 House Rabbit Society

http://www.psg.lcs.mit.edu/~carl/paige/HRS-home.html

If you can't stop 'em, adopt 'em. Just in time for Easter, the House Rabbit Society's site is devoted to rescuing abandoned bunnies and giving them new homes. The HRS is not an obscure organization; it has offices all across the U.S. and can help you adopt no matter where you live. Visit the "Bunny Gallery" to pick your own rabbit: White, black, brown, potty-trained—if only dating sites were so simple. At the very least, check out the abundant bunny info pages and learn how to say "rabbit" in Esperanto.

1 The Birdhouse

http://www.xensei.com/users/shacker/

Scrolling text along the bottom of the site says, "I must not think bad thoughts..." but they're so tasty, those thoughts which coagulate around your imagination causing disruption, disturbance and neglect. Feed your carnal needs and devour this phenomenal site which is best described as an artists' commune. This site is a drug: a sick, sagacious lyric in electronic sing-song. Indulge and be indulged alike. (For the full story behind this site, see Spotlight, page 60.)

4 IRS Home Page

http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/

Most surprising is the opening line: "We hope you'll find this site useful and fun." It may sound like we're sucking up to The Man in hopes of a tax break, but the IRS Home Page is actually entertaining and no question, useful. The jokes are corny, but the graphics are well-displayed—not the drab product you're used to seeing from a government agency. IRS forms, publications, locations for filing and tax FAQs are available at the site as well. Leona Helmsley and Willie Nelson have no excuses now.

5 Dr. Fellowbug's Laboratory of Fun & Horror

http://www.dtd.com/bug/

Need a break from your dreary day? Visit Fellowbug's Lab for some old-fashioned fun and nonsense. Inside you'll find "The Daily Noise," a new random downloadable sound clip every day, "Letter R.I.P," a variation of Hangman in which guessing wrong makes the limbs fall off a zombie and "The Keepers of Lists" who compile responses to topics like "Reasons Why Chicks Dig Fabio" or "Frat Guy Nicknames For Dole."

6 Roadside on the Web

http://www1.usa1.com/~roadside/RoadsideWebPage.html

Grease, when prepared right, rivals the cuisine at any haughty five-star restaurant, and Roadside On

the Web is your guide to finding the best cholesterol in the country. Roadside, an online companion to the paper-and-ink magazine of the same name, delves into diner culture with reviews, recipes, pleas for preservation, interviews and info on purchasing a real diner of your own.

7 Firefly

http://www.ffly.com

You're a big R.E.M. fan, but will you like John Coltrane? Head over to Firefly, and let their computers figure it out for you. At Firefly you begin by rating a whole mess of albums and artists. The more you rate, the smarter the service gets, eventually replacing those suggestions of Yanni with Tom Waits. Their database is immense, with downloadable sound clips, reviews and bios. For now, Firefly is limited to music, but expansion plans call for movies, books and Web sites to be added this year.

8 Feed

http://www.feedmag.com

When it comes to the Web, Feed's Editor in Chief, Steven Johnson, is both a skeptic and an admirer. His catechizing editorial both questions and makes observations on the roles multimedia and the Internet are playing and will continue to play in our rapidly expanding technoculture—as does much of this e-zine's remarkably well-written content. But it's way more than just a tech-heavy 'zine—*Feed* also includes stories and debates on mass media, film, music and more. All in all, Feed is easily one of the most thought-provoking sites on the Web.

9 SumoWeb!

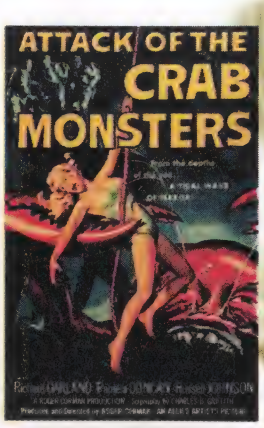
http://www-bcf.usc.edu/~tmccarth/sumo.htm

Now you too can learn more about the art/sport of sumo wrestling. Be a hit at all the parties. Impress your friends with lines like "I here you can achieve Yusho by knocking your opponent out of the dohyo, okuridashi style." At SumoWeb! you can browse current statistics detailing Japan's top sumo talent, or worst (poor Ozeki Takanonami is constantly ridiculed for his losing record). The page also offers visitors a glossary of fun-to-pronounce words, sport rules and regulations, news reports, topical essays and a few wrestling tips to try on dad.

10 The Cabinet of Dr. Casey

http://www.cat.pdx.edu/~caseyh/horror/index.html

Billed as *the* Horror Web Page, come feed your horror jones with archives of horror sights and sounds. "Dr." Casey Hopkins has also included an original horror atlas and timeline compiled by David Carroll so you can check out what horror movies take place in Wyoming or the big horror events of the 1530s. Best of all is the The Horror Movie Poster Archive—don't miss the original art from classics like *Attack of the Crab Monsters.*



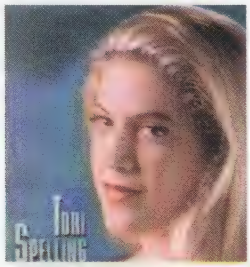
Good Lord No!

The Captain and Tennille
http://www.vcnet.com/moonlight/

Tonya Harding
http://www.solace.mh.se/~pp/tonya/

Vanilla Ice
http://weber.u.washington.edu/~warlock2/vanilla.html

Rick Springfield
http://www1.aksi.net/~luvs2luv/rick.htm

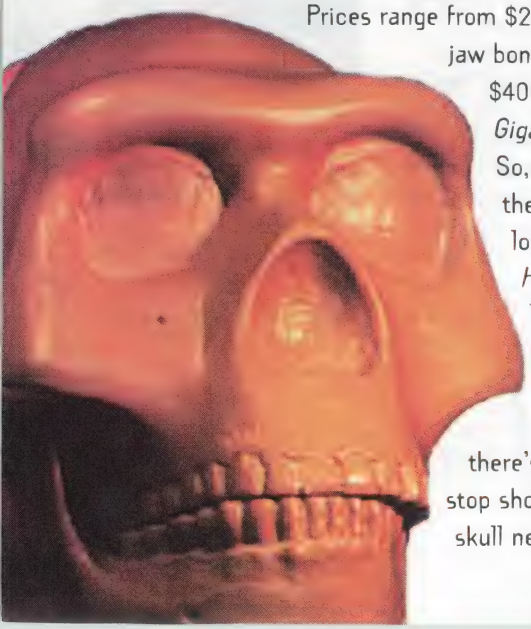


Tori Spelling
http://www.cu-online.com/~adept/tori.htm

BARGAIN BIN

The Skull Page
http://www.iea.com/~waltersm/skull.htm

"For the first time on the Internet, quality plaster reconstructions of skulls of human ancestors are available for sale." If that pitch doesn't grab you, nothing will. Whether you're looking for *Homo erectus Swanscombe* or *Australopithecus robustus* this is the place for quality reconstructions. Each skull is handmade by Dr. Grover Krantz of Washington State University using hydrocal white plaster. Skulls come in original white or light brown coffee ("approximating the coloration of an actual fossil"). Prices range from $25 for a variety of jaw bones to a whopping $400 for a replica *Gigantopitcus blacki*. So, whether you're the prop man for the local production of *Hamlet* or you're looking for the gift that says, "Maybe I am deranged," there's finally a one-stop shop for all your skull needs.



Numbers on the 'Net

A comparative look at literature through a Lycos search.

Crime	6,607	Punishment	1,254
Sense	8,540	Sensibility	603
Pride	3,934	Prejudice	638
War	16,864	Peace	9,686
Mice	1,567	Men	21,840
Charlie	3,644	Chocolate Factory	5,260

Netspeak

"Live each day and **try** to have as much *fun* as though it will be your *last day* on Earth because **eventually** one of them will be."

-KENNY KRAMER, THE REAL-LIFE INSPIRATION FOR COSMO KRAMER, ON HOW TO LIVE A CAREFREE LIFE, ON MR. SHOWBIZ

"I know all the techniques *and* styles,
I know *tiger claw* style... I know *crane* technique.
I know, **CRAZY MONKEY** technique"

-UNIDENTIFIED CALLER ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE OF TSUTOMO SHIMOMURA, FROM THE *TAKEDOWN* WEB SITE AT HTTP://WWW.TAKEDOWN.COM

"Barbie!!!!!!"

-WOODY AND BUZZ LIGHTYEAR, STARS OF *TOY STORY*, ON AOL IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION: "IF YOU WERE STRANDED IN A DESERTED TOY CHEST, WHO WOULD EACH OF YOU MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED WITH?"

Hi-Resolution Infidelity

Thinking about having an affair? Before the Internet, your options were *limited*—you either stayed at home and fantasized (borrrrring) or jeopardized the sanctity of your connubial bliss with a quick tryst at the office. Now there's a new show in town—the virtual affair. Not sure whether a *cyberfling* is for you? Check out our handy chart comparing real and virtual affairs:

	Real Affairs	Internet Affairs
Recommended Professions	Truck drivers Astronauts Murder trial jury members Wandering prophets	Telecommuting data enterers People under house arrest Plantsitters Exiled rulers
Location	Top Cost: $80 for room at a hotel Cheap-ass Cost: $6.95 an hour at Shack & Sip	Top Cost: AOL Chat Room, $2.95 an hour Cheap-ass Cost: Jeff's Nude of the Month, free
Dinner	Top Cost: $70 plus $20 for wine Cheap-ass Cost: $8 at Taco Bell plus $5 for Mad Dog	Top Cost: $37.25 for Burrito Express Cheap-ass Cost: Whatever's in the fridge
Protection	Condoms and spermicide, $10	Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Protection Kit, $29.95
Potential Mates	Milkmen Co-workers Secretaries Hairdressers Politicians	Perfectly-sculpted young millionaires Bisexual models from Sweden Mythical forest creatures
Potential Dangers	Public humiliation Divorce Performance anxiety STDs	System crashes Slow download time Seething angst that you're contributing to cyberporn

Still not sure? Just remember this—you still *might* get divorced (just ask Diane Goydan), but at least you improved your typing skills for that new second job. See you in the chat rooms!

Http://TV.commercials.com
Selected references to the 'net in those

OTHER MEDIUMS

KUDOS FOR *FENCES*

A February sweeps episode of the highly-acclaimed CBS drama *Picket Fences* revolved entirely around the 'net. The main plot involved Sheriff Brock's youngest son Zachary MORPHING his teacher's head onto a soft-core video clip of a woman disrobing. While the son is getting in trouble, his friend decides to post the clip on a Usenet newsgroup so his cousin in Colorado can see it. Next thing you know, the teacher is getting 25 LEWD E-MAIL MESSAGES a day and she decides to sue the families of the two kids. While the plot sounds sensationalistic, to the show's credit, the episode intelligently dealt with issues of cyberporn, free speech and parental responsibility. A humorous subplot dealt with Deputy Maxine's encounter with a man she meets in the chat room "Mix and Match." She thinks it's a room for males and females, but when the guy shows up at her door dressed to kill, she realizes it's a room for cross dressers. Again, this may sound sensationalized, but the show treated the issue as more than a gag and explored whether Maxine could actually DATE A TRANSVESTITE. Beyond a few technical errors (Zachary seems to forget that the Web and the 'net are not synonymous... how could people get the teacher's e-mail address from the video clip?), we applaud *Picket Fences* for its deft handling of serious 'net issues.

NO ESCAPE

As if it's not enough that we sit behind computers 12 hours a day churning out this magazine, can't we get away from the 'net once in a while? Apparently not. Witness the bus we were stuck behind on a recent commute. Question though, is this ADVERTISING REALLY THAT EFFECTIVE? How many commuters following the bus had their ThinkPads hooked up to cellular modems?

The G.O.P. Primary leader, according to Berkeley Internet Connections Primary Poll as of Feb. 22:

Phil Gramm, 1015 votes

According to some multimedia research companies, the range of margin of error inherent in 'net polls:

5 percent to 45 percent

Number of Internet-related jobs created in 1995:

36,000

Estimate of Internet related jobs that will be created in 1996:

100,000

NET LINE
INTELLIGENCE REPORT: NEWS FROM THE UNDERGROUND
Send news information or comments to: RLB@MCS.NET

Civil Disobedience

The Internet Community Rejects Congress' "Indecent" Proposal

"OBSCENE, LEWD, LASCIVIOUS, FILTHY AND INDECENT:" THAT'S THE KIND OF CONTENT CONGRESS HAS BANNED from the Internet through Section 502 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996. For many disgruntled users, it's intolerable that the U.S. Congress should pass such legislation, especially since most of its members have never logged onto the 'net. For the more cynical, the only surprising thing about the law is that religious conservatives didn't manage to tack on "licentious, incontinent and lecherous."

In February, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) an outspoken opponent of the CDA, introduced a bill to repeal the legislation immediately after it was signed by President Clinton. "The frustrating thing about it," Leahy told *IU*, "is that I think the many members of Congress come in their office and think they have an extra television set in there and don't realize it's called a computer...We stand there with great moral righteousness and point to China and say 'look at China putting this Intranet censorship in so that their people won't say the wrong things on the Internet.' Well, if we're going to stand up and criticize, we better be free to say that we don't do any censorship ourselves."

Like Leahy, the Internet community is also frustrated by the legislation: Some joined in on the 48-hour protest after Clinton's signing of the bill and blacked out the backgrounds of their Web pages. Retired Texas judge, Steve Russell, made good on his threat of civil disobedience and posted a scathing and "indecent" commentary attacking Congress' passing of the CDA. And the American Civil Liberties Union, teaming with 19 other civil liberty-minded organizations and individuals, filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law. The ACLU has been temporarily successful in their efforts, convincing U.S. District Judge Ronald L. Buckwalter to issue a restraining order on the CDA provision, which itself was passed as part of the larger Telecommunications Bill.

Michael Noll, Professor of Communications at University of Southern California, also responded in disgust to what is being widely decried as a censorship law. But he blames both Internet advocates and politicking conservatives of Congress for the bill's passage. "There's been so much hype on the Internet, and so much ignorance in the past by its advocates, that if somebody comes down and hurts them, they deserve it."

While everyone has the right to voice their opinion and show concern, even anger, over the ambiguity of the law, CDA opponent Rep. Rick White, (R-Wash.), suggests that Internet users not drive themselves into a paranoid frenzy. "The Justice Department isn't totally crazy. They will focus on the worst problems. I assume they're not going to have an interest in chasing down the one person in a chat room who decided to get a little frisky with some of his language."

But Rep. White appended, "Having said that, that person still shouldn't have to worry about it."

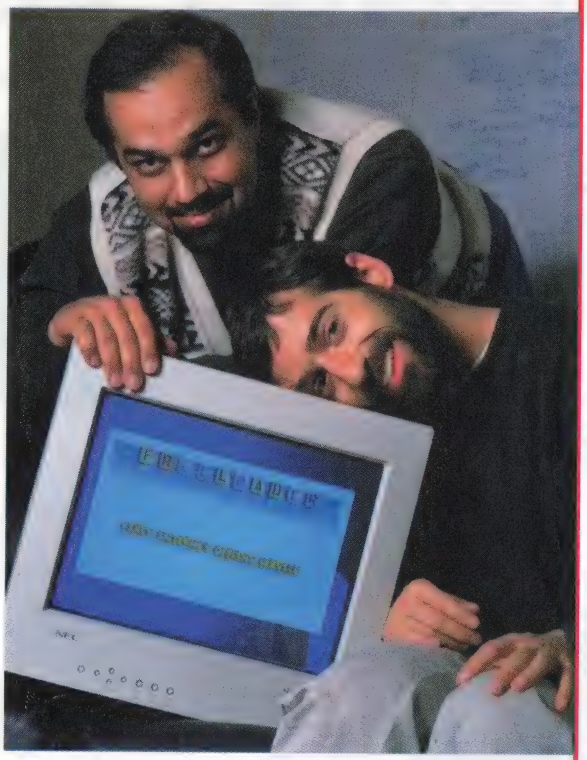
—Rob Bernstein

Surfing Offline

Freeloader Inc. Offers Users an Alternative to Logging on to the 'Net

"Why pay huge hourly Internet rates when you can Freeload at no cost?" That's the question offline entrepreneurs Sunil Paul, 31, and Mark Pincus, 29, asked themselves when they met for the first time in Washington D.C. a year ago, and are now posing to Internet users who are tired of long download times and the consequential costs incurred from service providers. The ambitious duo's Freeloader, Inc. (**http://www. freeloader.net**) is one of a number of new Internet services that allows users to receive downloaded files from Web sites, including video clips, audio files, games and software and browse through them at their leisure while offline.

"Automatically, Freeloader software downloads pages while you're asleep, in the background while you're word processing or during the day while you're away from home," says Paul. "Pieces of those Web sites will be flashed onto your screensaver. You can then connect to that Web site that's stored on your hard disk."



Freewheelin' freeloaders: (left) Marc Pincus and (right) Sunil Paul.

Paul is quick to point out, however, that the software isn't an attempt to "re-invent the wheel," and they have no pretensions of ever replacing the Web. Rather, they see Freeloader as an enhancement to the whole Internet experience, offering users direction in an otherwise Byzantine world. Besides, the software can't offer users much of what makes being on the Web so great: real-time applications like chat. Although, both Paul and Pincus note that the service can set-up for real time events. "Let' say next year's Super Bowl is in a big VRML stadium. You'll want all that artwork sent down ahead of time so that when you're ready to watch the kickoff, you can go straight in" explains Paul.

As for the competition, there are similar services like MilkTruck (**http://www.milktruck.com**), WebWhacker from ForeFront (**http://www.ffg.com**) and the PointCast Network (**http://www.pointcast.com**).

But the major advantage Freeloader has over the competition, according to Pincus, "We're not trying to extract a pound of flesh by charging $50 for our software. It's free." -RB

In Sen. Patrick Leahy's estimation, the percentage of Congressman who have actually logged onto the 'net at some point in time:

10 percent

Cost of Rainbow Wok's (http://www.goldenapple.com/rw/) "Sizzling Old Couple" lunch special:

$9.95

Sources: *Sen. Patrick Leahy,* The Wall Street Journal, *Berkeley Internet Connections*

No Frill Browsing

In his great "tell-it-like-it-is" fashion, Dick Firestone, project manager for the shareware site, JUMBO (http://www.jumbo. com), explains that the "coma-effect" users experience while waiting for long downloads is causing them to increasingly shut off the graphics while browsing on the Internet. The upshot: Marketers who are paying hand-over-fist for pretty ad banners are getting the shaft.

In response to this growing surf condition, JUMBO, with the aid of a 16-year-old programmer, has developed GraphicTrak, a free software aid for advertisers and Webmasters who wish to compile numbers on graphical versus non-graphical Web site hits.

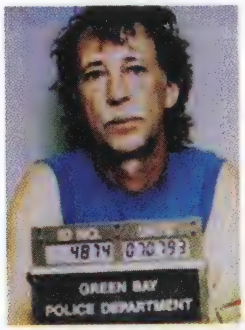
Already, JUMBO has received 2,500 plus requests for the service. Early estimates from the service report that 20-35 percent of users are currently surfing without graphics.

Hoping to set an advertisement pricing precedent with his own JUMBO site, Firestone is now offering his sponsors a money-back discount for every non-graphical hit his Web address receives. "Let's face it, advertisements are not as attractive when they're not in color," says Firestone. "[Advertisers] wind up with a box the size of your thumbnail... when the graphics go off, the click rates go down—end of story."

Looking For Internet Justice

The World's Most Wanted Web Site Helps Police Track Down the World's Worst Criminals

JUST UNDER A YEAR AGO, DAVE FARRELL BEGAN POSTING "MOST WANTED" INFORMATION ON THE WEB (http://www.mostwanted.com/), reporting on the globe's most dangerous criminal minds. There wasn't any particularly compelling reason for him to do so, no jaded past choking him with feelings of vengeance or injustice. He just thought it would be a good idea. So, Farrell, 35, invested some money into the project—over $1,000 a month—and crossed his fingers in hope that interested law enforcement agencies would eventually decide to pick up at least part of the tab.



No such luck. In fact, many state police departments were reluctant in even providing him with "most wanted" information, regardless of its public availability. "They would flat out say 'No we can not put this information

There's no escape for criminals posted on the Web.

online,'" Farrell recounts about speaking to a number of state police officials. "They put it in newspapers and on TV, but they wouldn't give it to me."

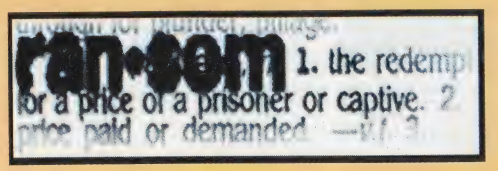
Issues of liability were what scared away Kentucky police officials, who recently turned down Farrell's offer to take a bite out of crime. Part of their concern, says Farrell, was with the possibility that hackers, particularly fugitives of justice, might invade the site and place misleading information online. Farrell says the Kentucky police were also concerned about his capacity to update a fugitive's status after capture or release.

Not everyone has been as reluctant to participate in the Web-hunt: The overworked El Paso Police Department has had their hands full with border violence and drug smuggling, and now sends Farrell five "most wanted" snapshots a week. Green Bay officers in Sheboygan County have also joined Farrell in his crimefighting escapades by link-

Mixed Media

RANSOM NOTE

A kidnapping, a botched FBI rescue and Mel Gibson will highlight QuickTime Live's behind the scenes look at *Ransom*, a summer '96 release from Ron Howard. Rene Russo and Gary



Sinise also star in the action-thriller that pits Gibson against his son's ruthless abductors. The Apple QuickTime Live crew will present exclusive on-set footage and interviews with the director and stars. To join the pre-summer release furor, head over to **http://www.live.apple.com/archive/new.html**.

CHARGED FOR APRIL

Hardcore sports fans with an interest in the martial arts, Mexican wrestling, dirt-bike riding, trekking, skateboarding and surfing will be pleased to know that a new sports-based cybermag., *Charged* (**http://www.charged.com**), slated for April release. Publisher ICon CMT, creators of the award-winning Internet publication *Word*, has been toting its new Web site as "entertainment and resource for people who play hard and often." So, gash it out of the hiddie you're in, and boost it to the most sick bruddah yet, Mr. Extreme Fan.

BETTER THAN A TRIPLECAST

You think Atlanta is proud of the fact that they're hosting the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games? Heck, they're nauseatingly giddy about the whole affair. Just check out **http://www. atlanta.olympic.org/**. The page is an in-depth look at the upcoming event: Read about the 10 new competing sports, check out this year's torch bearer route across the U.S. and find out more about the obnoxious little blue mascot Izzy (right). It's a great site with quick download times and important ticket information for potential Olympic attendees.

ing up to his site with their very own "Green Bay Area Crime Stoppers" at **http://www.mostwanted.com/WI/GBCS.html**. "We were looking for several suspects in reference to some homicides," explains David Byrnes, Green Bay Police Department's crime prevention director. "We had information that they had left state, so we figured, why not use all the tools available to us to get their picture and information out."

The Internet community has also gladly embraced the site. Farrell receives a surprising number of e-mails each day, mostly heart wrenching tales of woe from persons distraught over the legal system's inability to deliver justice. "I get things like 'My friend got stabbed, or my husband did this, can you find him?' There's a lot of things like that. Some of them have really long stories."

But "no matter how long," Farrell reads and responds to all e-mail himself. He does note, however, that that doesn't mean he can set up a posting for every plea that crosses his desk. All of Most Wanted's listings have to be real investigative cases (not mere complaints or grudges) and they must also be given the thumbs-up by the local authorities involved with that particular case.

Currently, Most Wanted maintains criminal profiles and photographs numbering in the hundreds, but one mug shot you won't find on the site is of Farrell himself. As a father of two, he prefers his anonymity. "I haven't been putting my face out there, and saying, 'Here I am, come and get me.' It's something I have to think about, especially after I start getting some of the bigger criminals online."

Go get 'em Dave. -RB

>.1U insider

"Crush Your Head!"

What better way to express your distaste in politics than with the President Clinton and Newt Gingrich head crusher at **http://www.personal.engin.umich. edu/~panman/**. Oh, you'd prefer to just bash on Clinton. Okay, then order away for the Billy-Bob bouncing head doll, for sale, $12.99, at **http://www.fbsoltions.com/pres/**.

Web site creators with an interest in politics are increasingly expressing themselves in, well, uninhibitory ways. A trend? We'd say so. Just check out the Exploding Heads Page (**http://www.w.com/~gilmore /head/heads.html**), or the Punch Rush Limbaugh Page (**http://www.indirect.com/www/beetle87/rush/index.html**) where unfortunate politicos suffer painful virtual bashings every day.

Visit our favorite bashing, at **http://garnet.berkeley.edu :2468/newt.html** where Newt is swallowed whole by a hungry toad.

Net Nomenclature

Heisman: To have access to your service provider or online service blocked because the line is busy.

He-Mail: An e-mail so huge that it overwhelms and, consequently, knocks out your server.

LipServ: When a mailing list makes it sound so simple to be removed and it really takes numerous attempts and several days time to receive your posts.

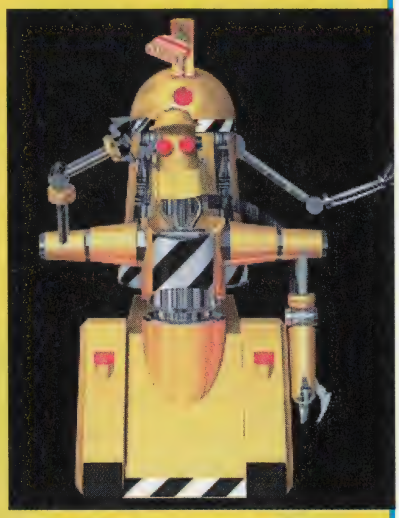
Kruegerapp: In homage to Freddy Krueger, a downloadable application that messes up your entire hard drive and makes computing a nightmare.

'Net Briefs

Read my lips, "Free of Charge."

FreeTel Communications recently released the first completely free Internet Telephony system that enables worldwide users to talk to one another without incurring any long distance telephone charges. You must have a 486/33 computer running Windows 3.x or Windows 95, a sound card and a 14,400 or faster Internet connection to use the service. The software can be downloaded at FreeTel's Web site at **http://www.freetel.com**.

INN Makeover



A prototype for one of *Cyber Park*'s many non-player avatars.

Easily one of the more exciting developments on the Web, the Imagination Network's new *Cyber Park* (no html available at press time) promises to transform AT&T's old online interactive gaming platform into a universally accessible network. The 3-D virtual reality environment will accommodate realistic sound and spatial sound immersion—a visual acoustic will actually allow users to see what other users are talking about "as they wander into visual earshot." INN boasts that hundreds of thousands of users, all with customizable character personas, will be able to simultaneously enjoy entertainment content, games, online events, chat rooms and more.

Yet another content provider succumbs to the power of the Web. Welcome aboard INN.

CompuServe Drops Ban On Newsgroups

CompuServe has lifted their ban of over 200 previously censored newsgroups, and have made Sun Microsystems' Cyber Patrol Internet filtering software available to parents to block out unsuitable sites for children. The protective software will be offered to subscribers for one year at no cost.

Five Usenet groups, however, will remain blocked by CompuServe:

alt.sex.pedophile;
alt.sex.pedophile.boys;
alt.sex.pedophile.girls;
alt.sex.pedophile.pictures;
alt.sex.pedophile.swaps.

Know When to Fold Them

Internet investors who have waged their bets on online casinos may be forced to cash in their chips real soon. Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), has introduced a measure as an amendment to the Crime Prevention Act of 1995 that would prohibit the transmission of money wagers over the Internet. San Francisco-based Funscape, proprietors of the online gambling service, Casino Royale (**http://www.funscape.com/win.htm**) insists that its casino does not fall under state or federal regulatory law and will continue to promote their site. Congress vs. casinos: Odds anyone?

Internet Unplugged

"Music in Cyberspace" Will Teach Artists How to Rock the Web

It won't be long now before users unplug their music television and turn to the Internet for their daily dose of audio and video entertainment. Recognizing the Internet's rapidly growing importance to the music biz, the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS), a.k.a., the group who brings you the Grammys each year, is presenting a day-long symposium on April 20, entitled "Music in Cyberspace." The event is open to 'net neophytes and experienced surfers alike, and will include discussions from various "cyberstar artists" (unnamed at press time), Apple Computer Music Group Director Duncan Kennedy and ex-MTV VJ and On Ramp Inc. President Adam Curry, among others.

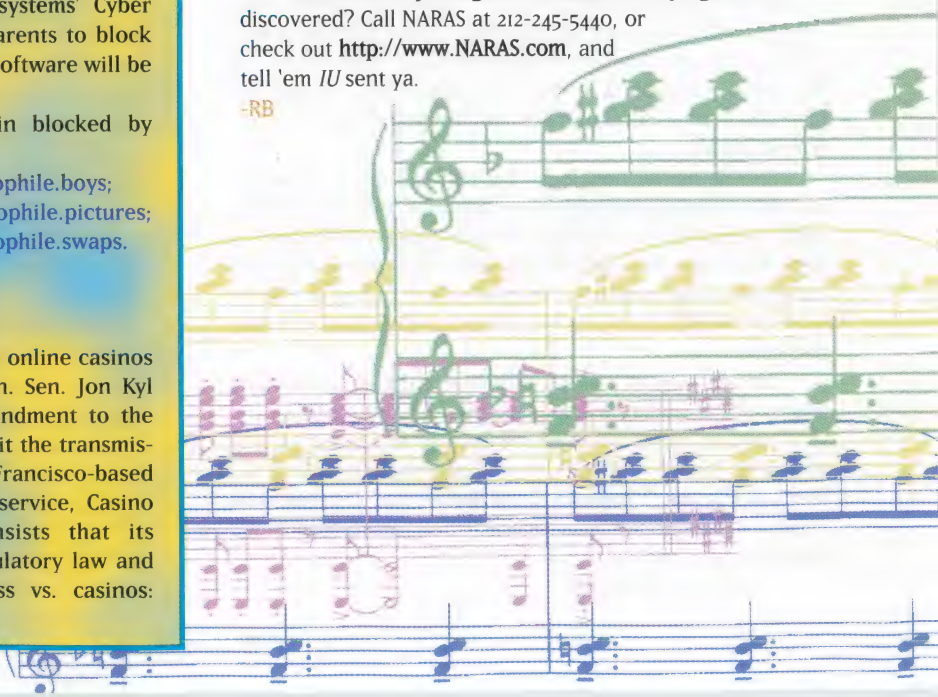
"Clearly, the Internet has already had an effect on the way business is being done in the music industry," explains New York NARAS Governor, Robbin Ahrold, who's also coordinating the event. "From selling concert tickets, to actually getting signed by a record label, to the exchange of MIDI files to permit long distance collaborations, to the development of direct relationships between the artists and their fans—these things are taking place right now."

While the symposium is being billed, in part, as a how-to tool to becoming an "infobahn cyberstar," scheduled speaker Kennedy promises that it will also explore the more serious questions facing the music industry in the technological age. How can the music business stop the distribution of bootlegs and illegal copyright online? Can an artist's work receive protection against inappropriate or offensive use of their work on the 'net? How fast can a cheetah run (no, not really)?

"There's got to be a plan for protection of copyrights," explains Duncan. "It's not about paranoia. You can't legislate a solution with more laws. What you need to do is find business reasons and personal and business motivations to have controls happen."

Interested in joining the discussion? Hoping to be discovered? Call NARAS at 212-245-5440, or check out **http://www.NARAS.com**, and tell 'em *IU* sent ya.

-RB



Blazing Across The 'Net

Geo-Interactive's New Emblaze Software Makes Downloads Immediate

In its February world premiere, Emblaze was represented by a simple little clock-faced cartoon character who danced across a screen. But Emblaze technology looks to be far more exciting than that humble start indicated. In fact its creators say that the software will play a large part in substantially reducing or even eliminating Web site wait time.

The new software-based technology actually allows animation to be displayed in real time over the Internet at a rate of 12- to 24-frames per second, up to a 1.5 kilobyte line quality, through use of a standard 14.4 modem.

The compression technique and format, designed by Geo-Interactive Media Group, requires very little storage space on the individual 'net user's hardware. With Emblaze, animations that play on a remote server come across the wire with immediate results. That's how Emblaze separates itself from Java animation, which requires that the information be downloaded into a computer's cache first, explains Eli Reifman, Geo's senior vice president of technology development.

But the most interesting and significant use for Emblaze might not be for animation, but rather for "downloading" various GIFs and images on a Web site. Used in that way, a graphic intensive site could "load" in real time, rather than through a computer's cache.

"What does this mean? No more waiting for Web sites," says Reifman says. "When you get there, the text and pictures can immediately come together."

GEO plans to give away both the player and the authoring tool, the Emblaze Creator, through its web site at **http://www.geo.co.il**. Late in 1996, they plan to incorporate sound integration for business applications and corporate sites.

GEO plans to coordinate with Netscape and other major authoring and browser creators to include Emblaze as a standard extension. Eventually, Web users will be able to send e-mails with Emblaze cartoons included, Reifman says. - Kathleen Flinn

is it worth it?

Peapod
http://www.peapod.com/

If you find yourself maliciously snickering at the helpless lobsters in the supermarket holding tank, desiring to drop kick the fatuous woman at the deli counter who cut in line or wanting to incite a violent, demolition derby-like 40-cart pile-up in the bread aisle—consider the Peapod option first.

Anyone with a computer, a modem and Peapod's proprietary software can use the online service which offers a listing of over 25,000 grocery and drugstore items. With all that in hand, you're geared to go.

The service software is well designed, separating out food items by category and icon. When you click on a category, like meat/poultry for instance, a list of available items will pop up, showing you cost, size, price and unit price; you also have the option of listing items by nutritional content, fat, calories, sodium, sugar or Kosher status. When you're done with you're shopping, click on a specified pick-up or delivery time (six days a week, Monday excluded), e-mail off the list, and let Peapod's professional shoppers cope with wobbly cart wheels and red-dot special tug-of wars.

Professional shoppers, huh? *IU* tested Peapod's skilled workers by ordering a pair of tomatoes, a dozen eggs, sliced mesquite turkey, an apple, bakery bread, gouda cheese, a bottle of Chardonnay, Cinnamon Teddy Grahams, Newman's Bandito salsa, Baked Tostitos and crackers. We had also wanted to purchase ice cream, but a goof on our part left the frozen goods department untested. But as for the groceries we did manage to order, they were delivered fresh, unbruised and on time. The supermarket, however, had been depleted of Cinnamon Teddy Grahams, and so our Peapod shopper, Nancy, had to make a judgment call on a replacement product (note: You can choose to not have Peapod shoppers make substitutions for unstocked items). She brought Honey Teddy Grahams instead. Mmmm, good call Nancy.

We at *IU* all loved the concept of the service, although we were surprised at the cost. In addition to the software fee ($29.95), there's a monthly membership charge of $4.95, a shopping fee of $6.95 and an additional 5 percent on the final cost of the purchase.

So is it worth it? Well, it isn't available nationally yet (Chicago and San Francisco service only), but in our opinion, it's off to a good start. Peapod is easy to use and convenient for those who don't have the time or endurance to shop. As for the expense, obviously the more you purchase per use, the more sense it makes to subscribe.

Editor's Notebook

Smoke, Sun and CompuServe Discs in French: Welcome to Milia

CANNES, FRANCE - MAYBE IT'S ME, BUT IT WAS A LITTLE WEIRD TO HEAR PEOPLE PITCHING America Online in French. Ah, but that's Milia for you; the international new media conference held in Cannes each year at the Palais de Festival, the site of the famous film festival. This February, the massive beachfront facility was packed with booths hawking CD-ROM titles, Internet connectivity and emerging technologies.

Now that the *World Wide* Web is finally starting to live up to its name, the European markets appear in a rush to get consumers online. But the same problems facing U.S. users plague Europeans as well. Legal and regulatory questions dominated much of the discussion, probably because the conference was held at the same time President Bill Clinton signed the controversial Telecommunications bill into law (see page 16).

"For so long, the Internet has been considered an American thing," noted Jean Roussan, a Paris-based 'net consultant. "Now, as Europe and the rest of the world gets involved, I think you'll start to see a lot of technological advances from this side of the Atlantic."

Roussan may just be right. At Milia, a number of foreign companies announced new technologies. Among them: CD-i software from Netherland-based Philips Media that allows you to cruise the Web from your TV; real-time animation from Israel's Geo-Interactive that may help speed up Web site download times (see story page 21); Picture Mail from Japan's Dome Inc., that allows the user to send photos through e-mail rather than as attachments; and improved MPEG compression by German-based Digital Media Development Co.

At Milia, it became clear that interactivity isn't enough anymore. Most CD-ROM creators offered options to tie games in to Web sites so that info can remain up-to-date.

"I think CD-ROM companies have to learn to extend their wares by using the Internet. That's where the real competition is now," said Channon Greenberg, CEO of Click, an Israel-based CD-ROM developer. (Speaking of competition, an American company took home one of the top awards from Milia, the CD-ROM *SFPD Homicide* from Grolier Electronic Publishing.)

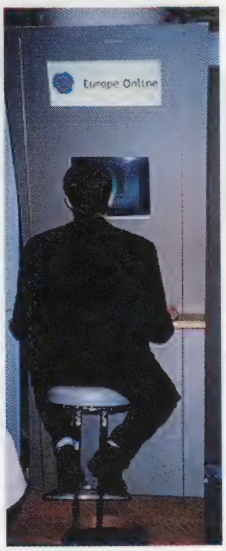
The best glimpse of the future was at Milia's New Talent Pavilion, where students from 29 countries showed off projects that pushed the technical envelope. Here, we found a refreshing change; people with thought behind what they're putting on the Web.

"I started considering that in pre-literate society, people read stories in the stained-glass windows of churches. They communicated through symbols. So I created an environment that would allow anyone, regardless of their language, to use it," said Christian Wach, a student in the United Kingdom, who displayed an interactive music and Internet experience.

Setting up universally understood pages is a challenge to make the Web live up to the World Wide part of its name. Until a year ago, just under 90 percent of all the content on the Web came out of North America. That number lessened, but no solid statistics are yet available. Online access in Europe is still spotty. Plus, there's the whole attitude thing. After all, you have to consider that you're talking about a continent that can't agree on a single form of currency, whose citizens speak dozens of languages and don't even drive on the same side of the road.

America Online, making its first major push outside of North America, tried to downplay its geo-centric name by using its initials only: AOL (as if that's going to fool anyone). AOL has teamed up with European publishing giant Bertelsmann in an attempt to get the rest of the world hooked on its chat rooms.

Christian Wach (right) a student "who thinks before he surfs;" the French, for once, were nice, but thousands of expense accounts will have that effect; Europeans newbies abound (below, right).



CompuServe spammed the crowd with discs in French, and Microsoft made headway on world domination. Other big U.S. players, such as Prodigy, were absent.

Those of us used to covering conferences stateside had some adjustments to make, and not just to the time zone. At many booths, exhibiters handed out glasses of wine and champagne along with press kits. Europeans just love to smoke. And they did—everywhere. By noon, the entire Palais was covered in a foggy gray haze.

The event closed with a declaration of independence in Cyberspace by Electronic Frontier Foundation co-founder John Perry Barlow (the text is available on our Web site at **http://www.underground-online.com/**). After four days of nearly constant hype about how the Web will change Europe and all the lands beyond, Barlow wryly noted: "You know, less than 1 percent of the human race is online. But if it continues to grow at this rate, everyone on the planet will have an e-mail address by the year 2003." - *Kathleen Flinn*

(Reach Milia at **http://194.158.97.145:80/us/pageo-01.html**)

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weird ON THE WEB

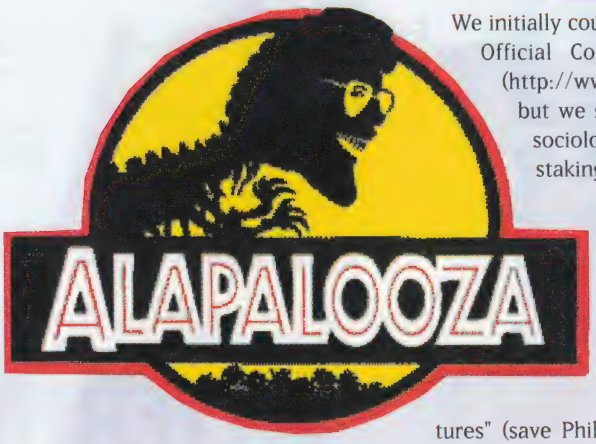
The Spam Cam

http://www.fright.com/cgi-bin/spamcam

The Spam Cam ingeniously combines two of our favorite Internet activities: Pointing a camera at something (see this month's Classic Weird) and experimentation with food (see "Weird Science," *IU* #1). At press time, the site's first experiment, a study of a lump of Spam and its decomposition rate at room temperature as compared to a dill pickle, a banana and some Starbuck's coffee, had ended. But the photos and conclusions are archived for your perusal. The entire test is best viewed through the magic of Spam Cam Time-Lapse Photography. A second experiment featuring a Twinkie, a tomato and, of course, Spam was just underway, with new research and improved camera work (close-ups of mold!) planned in the future.

The Weird Al Yankovic for President in 1996 Campaign Headquarters

http://www.epix.net/~lexf/al.html



We initially couldn't decide whether to pick this site or the Official Countdown to Weird Al's Birthday page (http://www.netins.net/showcase/mikewrld/al.html), but we settled on the former due to its impending sociological relevance. With every other candidate staking claim on the Web (see "The American Precedent," *IU* #3), Lex Friedman decided that Weird Al should throw his paisley hat into the ring as well. Weird Al's credentials? Being "the best comedic singer of all time" (he must not have checked out the Captain James T. Kirk Sing-a-long Page), as well as having a career in film: "none of the candidates have appeared in motion pictures" (save Phil Gramm's foray into financing). By far the most torturous part of this page is the commentary from visitors, proving that Weird Al's fans wield bad puns as readily as Yankovic himself.

The Beast's IQ

http://www.indiana.edu/~pietsch/iq.html

Self-deification is the latest addition to the biology syllabus at Indiana University where researchers are playing God with amphibians. Specifically, Paul Pietsch has created Cyclops and Triclops aquatic salamanders in order to test the intelligence of said creatures. The Cliffs Notes version of the good doctor's work is that he surgically removes eyeballs from one salamander and places them randomly on other salamanders to see if their learning rate increases with the extra eye. Don't miss the salamander with a hand growing out of its eye socket; unfortunately there are only a couple of pictures on this site.

The Alternative Dictionary

http://www.notam.uio.no/~hcholm/altlang/

Webmaster Hans-Christian Holm heads this collaborative effort to collect "slang, swear words and 'bad language'" from around the globe. Contributors have supplied gutter klatch from Tibet to Norway. With a whopping 358 words, English has been shown to be the filthiest language so far, closely followed by German, Spanish, Russian and Italian, all with more than 100 entries. Useful, but limited, entries are also found in Yiddish, Japanese and even Esperanto. No graphics, but then again no picture could be worth the thousand words you'll find here. Bonus: You can also add your own suggestions and terms. Don't forget to see the "tree-style" index of linguistic families; it's enough to make you "bzdzec."

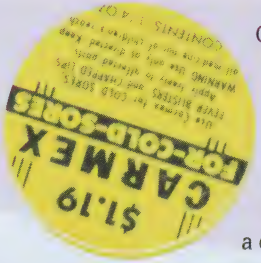
Each month, we find a site that we'd like to share but that might be in questionable taste and perhaps disturbing to our gentler readers. You'll find this month's "pick"

enter at your own risk

filed under the category of "nasal archeology"

http://www.cybersim.com/booger/default.htm

Lip Balm Anonymous



Oh, they told me it was dangerous using all that Chap Stick, but I wouldn't listen. Soon Chap Stick wasn't good enough. I moved on to Blistex, then the real hard stuff, Carmex. Soon I was up to a container-a-day habit. It didn't matter if it was chapped lips, cold sores or fever blisters, I needed my lip balm just to get through the day. I lost my friends, my job, I was out of control until I checked out the Lip Balm Anonymous site. I found there were others just like me. Now I'm on the road to recovery. Thank you LBA for giving me the strength and courage to face the day even if my lips are all dry and cracked.

http://users.aol.com/LipBalmA/

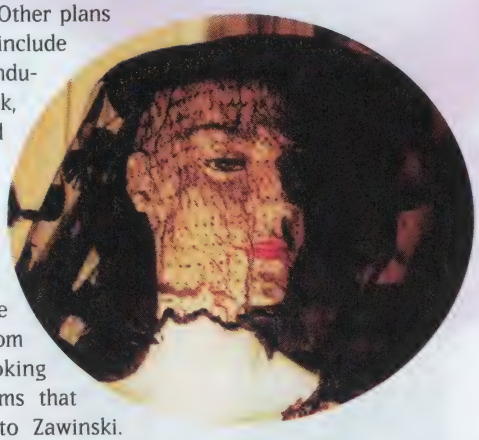
Smelly Socks Swap Shop

Wondering what to do with that old guilt-complex or your really lousy job? Now you can barter it and any other emotional baggage away. "Smelly Socks" started as an inside joke among friends, who began swapping their idiosyncrasies for material wealth. Soon others joined in, offering trades like "the Seven Wonders of the World" for "a bug-free Microsoft program" and a third-world country ("complete with drought and famine") for 37 cents. Interested participants can just e-mail their proposed barters and hope someone will take the bait.

http://corona.tpi.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/people/geisler/test/swap.html

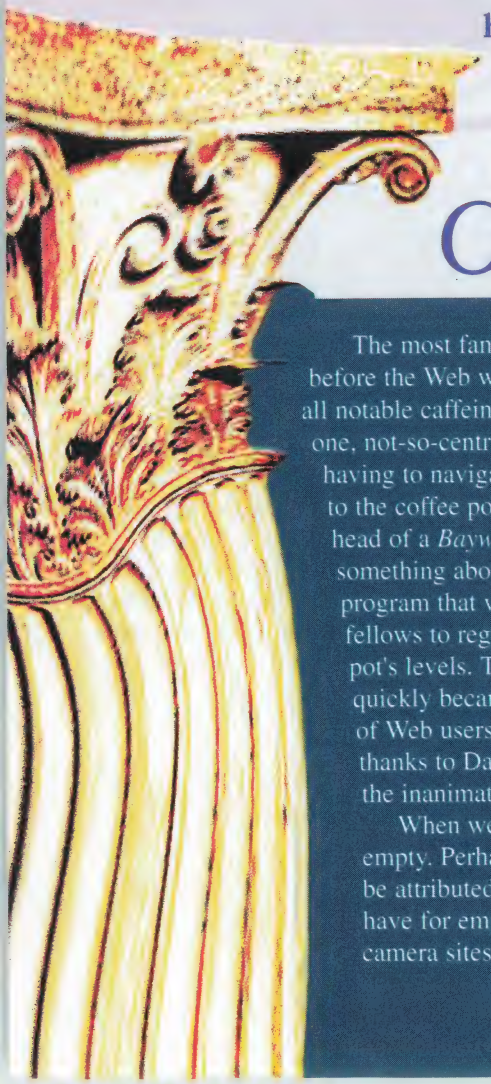
My Apartment is Cooler Than Yours

When upscale department store I. Magnin went out of business, Jamie Zawinski landed a windfall. Four mannequins from the defunct retailer, hand-selected limb by limb, now grace Zawinski's small, unusual abode in the San Francisco Bay area and subsequently her Web site. It's weird enough keeping the company of mannequins, but it's what the ever-so-creative Zawinski did to the motionless, former department store figures that makes for entertaining browsing. One now sports a greenish wedding gown (the dress' owner had tried to dye it black, but failed) and another was transformed into a vampire. "Other plans (vague and half-formed though they be) include bolting on various bits of metal for that trendulant cyberpunque look." To obtain that look, Zawinski and a friend traveled to an Oakland junkyard in search of further riches to adorn the plastic beauty.



In addition to the mannequins, Zawinski has obtained a crash-test dummy (actually an artist's dummy painted in yellow and black) and a statuesque Mayor McCheese from a local McDonald's. Despite a room filled with eerie, almost human-looking women filling the apartment, it seems that McCheese is the most disturbing to Zawinski. "Mayor McCheese is the stuff nightmares are made of, don't you think? A talking burger. He is both food and an authority figure. Such semiotics."

http://home.mcom.com/people/jwz/casa-larceny/index.html



Classic Weird on the Web

The most famous camera on the Web began before the Web was created. Fifteen researchers, all notable caffeine guzzlers, were forced to share one, not-so-centrally located coffeepot. Irritated at having to navigate several flights of stairs to get to the coffee pot, only to find it as empty as the head of a *Baywatch* co-star, they decided to do something about it. Thus, Xcoffee was born, a program that would allow the computer science fellows to regularly check the coveted coffee pot's levels. The Trojan Room brewing station quickly became a coveted view by thousands of Web users as the pot gained cult status thanks to Daniel Gordon's efforts at making the inanimate object an HTML vision.

When we checked, the pot was nearly empty. Perhaps the popularity of the site can be attributed to the empathy caffeine addicts have for empty java vessels. Unlike other camera sites, the Xcoffee doesn't have hours of operation; this is 24-hour long entertainment. Much to our dismay, the authors of this site say that, despite the technological convenience, the quality of the coffee is still sub-par.

The Coffeepot at Cambridge
http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/coffee/coffee.html

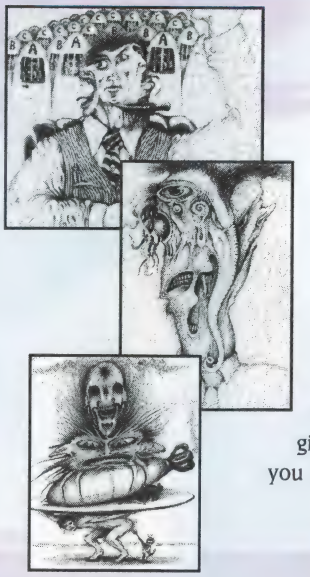
Neil/Fred's Gigantic List of Palindromes

http://www.cs.brown.edu/people/nfp/palindrome.html

"Star comedy! Brats! Live! Me? It's sarcastic. It's a crass time. Evil star by Democrats." OK, stop—this is too hard. Palindromes, as we just discovered, are tough to write. Fortunately, here's a page with hundreds of them, ranging from the incisive ("Are we not drawn onward, we few, drawn onward to new era?") to the insipid ("E. Borgnine drags Dad's gardening robe."), Neil Piccioto includes a section for foreign palindromes and poems. Lots of information to be had here—most people don't know that Teddy Roosevelt's palindromic rough draft for "A man, a plan, a canal, Panama" actually read "A man, a plan, a cat, a ham, a yak, a yam, a hat, a canal—Panama!"

The Vomitus Maximus Museum

http://www.vomitus.com/vomitus/index1.html



The work of R.S. Connett, an artist and Webmaster suffering from the Salvador Dali complex, has been called "psycho representational" by one critic and just plain sick by another. What will you think? It's up to you to make the call. Connett's bizarre, otherworldly art on display at the Vomitus Maximus Museum wasn't exactly something we'd frame and give to mom for her birthday. Nor did we feel particularly compelled to purchase his special Valentine cards, either; a demon holding a heart cut from someone's chest isn't our idea of romance. But his work is intriguing and the gift shoppe is always entertaining, especially if you like skulls or gargoyles.

We Didn't Start The Fire

http://users.aol.com/jdsweesy/fire.html

Here's an example of an idea that at one point may have seemed cool, but now is simply weird. This site posts the lyrics to the 1989 Billy Joel history lesson "We Didn't Start the Fire," with each individual phrase hyperlinked to a site that relates to it. For example, click on "Joe Dimaggio" and you'll get linked to a site promoting the Ken Burns Baseball documentary. "Panmunjom" sends you to a Korean War Memorial site. The Webmaster gets more clever in linking the chorus, with the word "fire" going to a local fire department's safety page and well, go see for yourself. If someone could apply this concept to R.E.M.'s "It's the End of the World..." that'd be cool.

At http://zeta.cs.adfa.oz.au /Spirit /dolphin-ones.html, you can find an outtake of *The Dolphin Ones*, a work by June Hughes, a.k.a. Sananjaleen. At the Web site, a journal outlines Hughes' experiences channeling dolphins, whales, giant squids and manatees to gain insight about the beginning of the world. Hughes explains it this way: "The words come into my head, and are presented to my mind as my own thoughts. Sometimes they are very visual, sometimes I see nothing." It all started in 1988, when Hughes was meditating to a Steven Halpern tape during a *Course in Miracles* study group session.

kook du jour

Suddenly, the dolphins communicated via her thoughts. "In my mind, I was surprised to see dolphins and sharks swimming through beautiful aquamarine colored music, thinking of tuna nets and polluted oceans." As her journal unfolds, some of the entries get a little random, such as this one for Sept. 7, 1990: "The Mighty Squids said our recognition of them would help them make further breakthroughs, or something like that. They had also said something about helping on land at the beginning of time, that they held records." She later communicated with manatees, offering them kind words to boost their low self-esteem that stemmed from being fat, unwieldy sea creatures. Eventually, she learned that dolphins actually come from another planet, and in her mind's eye, viewed a reunion of dolphins in spaceships with their water-bound brothers and sisters. "They will report back to Council, the Inter Galactic Council from which they were sent forth, expressing, adding their own intuitive summaries...And the dolphins shall step lightly this day, leap higher, sing louder, swim faster. Knowing the joy of a visit from home!"

By JOHN MARKOFF
Special to The New York Times

IMAGE BY MARK MONDAY

UNOFFICIAL MARKOFF MITNICK SHIMOMURA FAQ

by Simson Garfinkel

There are three schools of thought about last year's pursuit and capture of superhacker Kevin Mitnick by Tsutomu Shimomura with *The New York Times* reporter John Markoff.

THE FIRST, MOST CLEARLY STATED BY SHIMOMURA AND MARKOFF THEMSELVES IN THEIR BOOK *TAKEDOWN*, IS THAT MITNICK WAS AN EVIL, "DARK SIDE" HACKER, WITH UNSAVORY INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS AND A BAG OF TRICKS THAT WAS A THREAT TO THE INTERNET. IN THIS VERSION OF EVENTS, MITNICK WAS RIGHTLY "TAKEN DOWN" BY A SUPERIOR INTELLECT WHO WAS WORKING FOR THE FORCES OF GOOD AND THE AMERICAN WAY.

the players - top: Shimomura, middle: Mitnick, bottom: Markoff

Another view of the facts is by journalist Jonathan Littman, the author of the book* The Fugitive Game: Online With Kevin Mitnick. *In this book, Littman portrays Mitnick as a victim of circumstance, a convenient fall guy who has been set up by the government and whose crimes have been magnified by the press. Indeed, the real bad guy in Littman's book isn't Mitnick, but Markoff, whom Littman says crossed over the line from covering the story, to becoming part of it.

The third book of the trio is *The Cyberthief and the Samurai*, by New York journalist Jeff Goodell, and published in paperback by Dell. Goodell's book grows out of an article that he wrote for *Rolling Stone*, and its main selling point is that Goodell has no financial or emotional relationship with any of the story's main characters.

Although he stands to profit handsomely from it, Goodell thinks that the Mitnick story was blown out of proportion for a variety of reasons. One was timing, says Goodell. "It came at a time when our anxiety about technology was incredibly high. The world was changing rapidly by this new stuff called the Internet. Few people out there knew what it was. It was destabalizing a lot of jobs. There was a strong desire to try to latch on to that. I think that a lot of that anxiety was funneled into Kevin Mitnick."

WHERE DOES THE TRUTH LIE?

Somewhere in between, no doubt, but probably closer to Goodell's version of events. *Internet Underground*'s Editor At Large Simson L. Garfinkel has followed this case for more than three months to compile this handy FAQ format. (For *IU*'s take on the books, see page 76.)

QUESTION: HOW HARD WAS IT REALLY TO BREAK INTO SHIMOMURA'S COMPUTER, AND WHAT WAS ACTUALLY TAKEN?

Answer: "I believe he left his system(s) open intentionally to attract potential attackers—leaving him with the option of following the attackers or learning from any of the few interesting techniques he might find," says Capt. Kevin J. Ziese, chief of Countermeasures Development with the U.S. Air Force's Information Warfare Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Although the Christmas Day attack on Shimomura's computer was based on a technique called "IP Spoofing" that had never been seen outside a laboratory environment, the attack would not have succeeded if Shimomura's computers had been protected with some basic computer security systems such as Kerberos, S/Key or SecureID.

Two programs were apparently stolen. The first, according to privacy activist John Gilmore, was a new version of the Berkeley Packet Filter for the U.S. military. The new filter was designed to be as stealthy as possible on a UNIX system: Hidden deep in the kernel, it could pick up packets from the 'net and send them to any other computer on the network. This filter could run at an astounding rate of more than 100,000 packets per second; impressive, considering that few networks transmit more than a few dozen packets per second. "This tool is custom-designed for evil," wrote Gilmore on a post to the infamous cypherpunks mailing list.

"Maybe in wartime the Air Force will want to inflict evil on an opponent. Or maybe instead they'll pass it to a latter-day J. Edgar Hoover. Either way, it's evil," Gilmore noted.

The second program was software designed to reverse-engineer Shimomura's Oki 900 cellular telephone. The software, co-developed by Shimomura and Bay Area hacker Mark Lottor, could turn a phone into a cellular scanner. By some readings of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, mere possession of this software is a crime. According to *Takedown*, Mitnick allegedly wanted the software because he thought he could use it to make a cellular phone that couldn't be traced.

IF YOU WEREN'T A COMPUTER SECURITY EXPERT OR A *NEW YORK TIMES* REPORTER, THEN MITNICK WAS NOT SUCH AN OBVIOUS THREAT

UESTION: WAS KEVIN MITNICK REALLY ALL THAT DANGEROUS?

Answer: It depends on who you are. "Kevin Mitnick was systematically attacking the machines belonging to Internet computer security experts (Dan Framer, Eric Allman, Shimomura etc.) looking for non-public security flaws and sharing them with a loosely connected group of computer outlaws," Markoff wrote me in an e-mail message. "To my mind, he was a public menace who was doing more to damage personal privacy and security in the information age than almost anything I can think of."

On the other hand, if you weren't a computer security expert or a *New York Times* reporter, then Mitnick was not such an obvious threat. Yes, it's true that he had a database of 20,000 credit cards. On the other hand, there's no proof that he ever actually *used* any of them. Furthermore, there's no proof that Mitnick is even the first hacker to swipe them. Emmanuel Goldstein, editor of the hacker quarterly *2600*, says that the infamous list of 20,000 credit cards, allegedly stolen from Netcom Communications, had actually been circling around cyberspace for more than a year prior to Mitnick's arrest.

In *The Fugitive Game*, Littman paints a decidedly more sympathetic view of Mitnick. One reason he did so, we are told, is that he did not rely on Markoff's press accounts of Mitnick's past exploits. Instead, he tried to verify them and in many cases failed. For example, says Littman, there is no evidence to indicate that Mitnick ever broke into the U.S. military's computers at NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command computer, even though this supposed stunt is now reported as truth and was even used as the basis for the movie *War Games*.

Transcripts that are published in *Takedown* (and available on Shimomura's Web site, **http://www.takedown.com/**) make it clear that it was a hacker in Israel who was the brains behind Mitnick's attacks. There isn't even any proof that ties Mitnick to the Christmas Day

attack on Shimomura's machine. On the other hand, in *The Fugitive Game*, Littman makes it very clear that Mitnick had detailed, inside knowledge of the attack shortly after it took place. If Mitnick wasn't the perpetrator, he was definitely close to the source.

QUESTION: WHAT'S THIS ABOUT WWW.TAKEDOWN.COM?

ANSWER: That's Shimomura's Web site, built for the dual purpose of publicizing his book and telling the world his version of the "facts."

Probe further, and you'll learn that Shimomura's Web site gets its network service from Shimomura's erstwhile employer, San Diego Supercomputing Center. Now, you may wonder what a Web site advertising a book (and soon-to-be major motion picture) is doing getting its network service from a federally funded lab. Ann Redelfs, a spokesperson for the lab, says that she doesn't know if Shimomura's use of lab resources for personal gain violates any rules. Neither does the federal government's Inspector General office, although the IG did take an interest in the matter when *Internet Underground* telephoned asking for an opinion.

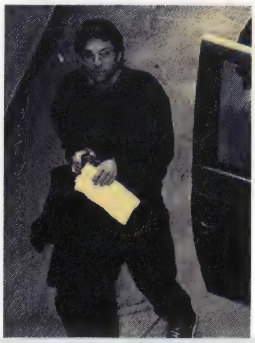
Ironically, Shimomura's Web site has been hacked several times. In February, the site was literally taken down, when a computer hacker submitted a fraudulent domain modification request to Network Solutions Inc., the company that runs the Internet's domain servers. A few weeks later, some hacker broke into the site of the noted security expert and changed the computer's mailer banner so that it read:

220 www4.takedown.com ESMTP Sendwhale 8.7.3/Takedown-1 [KDM was here] ready at Thu, 15 Feb 1996 18:25:13 -0800 (PST)

So much for computer security, eh?

QUESTION: WHY DIDN'T SHIMOMURA CALL HIS BOOK *CATCHING KEVIN*, AS WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED?

Answer: Perhaps because that title would have been a little too close to the truth. According to Goodell, Shimomura and Markoff had actually considered putting together a trap for Mitnick in October 1994, two months before the Christmas Day break-in. "Shimomura and [SDSC's network manager] had planned a *Cuckoo's Egg* kind of sting," says Goodell, referring to Cliff Stoll's best-selling book. "They were going to do the same thing. They even contacted Kathleen Cunningham at the U.S. Marshall's Office and offered their help."



QUESTION: DID MARKOFF BREAK THE LAW?

Answer: Eric Corley thinks so. In the attention-grabbing opening scene of *Takedown*, Shimomura, Markoff and a Sprint Cellular engineer sit in a van with listening equipment, homing in on the elusive Mitnick by tracing the signals from his cellular telephone, listening to Mitnick's calls in the process. Nearly 300 pages later, when the scene is repeated, Shimomura quotes Markoff as saying, "I recognize that voice! That's Eric Corley!"

Perplexed by press reports? Try *IU's* Mitnick Cliffs Notes

THE FACTS OF THE CASE:

On July 4, 1994, John Markoff wrote a front-page story in *The New York Times* describing 30-year-old Kevin Mitnick as "Cyberspace's Most Wanted," a villain who combined "technical wizardry with the ages-old guile of a grifter."

On Dec. 25, 1994, someone broke into a computer owned by security expert/hacker Tsutomu Shimomura, a researcher at the San Diego SuperComputing Center.

Upon investigation by Shimomura himself, it was learned that the break-in was launched from a Sun workstation located at the San Francisco residence of John Gilmore, a noted computer privacy activist. Gilmore was not believed to be involved in the attack. Instead, it was likely that Gilmore's computer had also been the object of a break-in by an unknown attacker somewhere else on the Internet.

At the time of the attack, Shimomura was soaking in a hot tub in Gilmore's house with Gilmore's then-girlfriend, Julia Menapace. In his book, Shimomura says he was attempting to woo Menapace away from Gilmore, with whom she had been romantically involved for six years.

The attacker or attackers made a complete dump of Shimomura's computer, obtaining more than a year's worth of his electronic mail and notes, programs that could be used for hacking cellular telephones and information warfare programs that had been written at the behest of the U.S. government.

Shimomura discussed details of the break-in at a computer conference in January 1995. Details of his talk were published on the front page of *The New York Times* in an article written by Markoff.

A few weeks after the break-in, Shimomura was hired by The Well, an elite Internet Service Provider in the San Francisco Bay Area, to investigate a number of security problems the service had been experiencing.

While investigating The Well's hijacked account, Shimomura discovered copies of his stolen e-mail files.

Using sophisticated packet-tracing software, the Internet's equivalent to a wiretap, Shimomura tracked the intruder's packets back to Netcom, another Bay Area Internet Service Provider.

After relocating his base camp to Netcom's headquarters and demonstrating hacker bravado by patching Netcom's UNIX operating system in a 30-hour marathon, Shimomura traced the intruder to a Netcom dial-up in Raleigh, N.C.

During this time, Shimomura became convinced that the attacker was none other than Mitnick. Because of the distinctive character of the call disconnects, Shimomura was convinced that the intruder was dialing up Netcom's modem from a cellular telephone.

The FBI obtained a series of wiretap orders that allowed them to determine that the attacker was indeed dialing into Netcom's Raleigh modems from a cellular telephone. U.S. Sprint, the local cellular telephone operator, determined the approximate location of the hacker.

Shimomura flew to Raleigh in order to participate in the final tracking and capture of the attacker.

Markoff followed Shimomura, where he was introduced to Sprint technicians and FBI field operatives as a member of Shimomura's team.

Together, Shimomura, Markoff and a Sprint technician listened to the telephone conversations of the attacker. Markoff identified one voice as that of Eric Corley, alias "Emmanuel Goldstein," the editor of the magazine *2600*, which bills itself as the "Hacker's quarterly."

The following morning, Feb. 15, Mitnick was arrested by the FBI. Markoff's account of the capture ran on the front page of the *Times* on Feb. 16th.

Book and movie offers immediately began flowing in to Markoff, Shimomura and John Brockman, Markoff's agent.

By the afternoon of Feb. 17, Markoff's agent had nailed down an agreement for a book tentatively titled *Catching Kevin*, to be written by Shimomura and Markoff, and published by Hyperion. The advance for the book was reportedly $750,000.

On Sunday, Feb. 19, Markoff's article "Hacker and Grifter Duel on the 'Net" appeared on the first page of *The Times'* Week in Review section. "My first inkling that Kevin Mitnick might be reading my electronic mail came more than a year ago," wrote Markoff, revealing for the first time that he was both a chronicler and a participant in the Mitnick drama.

The article, which painted both Mitnick and Shimomura larger-than-life, concludes: "Mr. Mitnick is not a hacker in the original sense of the word. Mr. Shimomura is. And when their worlds collided, it was obvious which one of them had to win." *-Simson Garfinkel*

Corley, better known as Emmanuel Goldstein, is the editor of the quarterly hacker magazine *2600*. He's upset that Markoff and Shimomura listened in on his conversation—and angry that the conversation itself is reported in their book. "I feel that they violated my privacy," says Corley.

Corley is no fan of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, the law which prohibits the tapping of cellular telephone calls. Nevertheless, he says, the law specifically forbids tapping people without a warrant and the public release of information obtained from a wiretap.

Now, it turns out that the FBI had a wiretap order for Mitnick. But did that order cover Markoff? That depends on whether Markoff was sitting in the van as a "Kevin expert," working on behalf of the FBI, or whether he was there as a reporter for *The New York Times*.

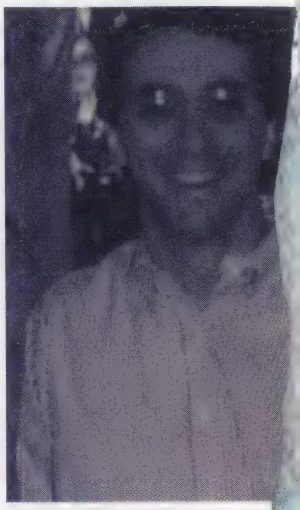
"To the best of my knowledge, John Markoff did not do anything illegal. His role in the investigation was as a source of information about Kevin Mitnick," says John Ken Walker, Jr., a former Assistant U.S. Attorney who worked on the case.

But Markoff demurs. "I was in the truck as a *New York Times* reporter and I had identified myself as such," says Markoff, who adds that the ECPA did not apply to the Mitnick/Corley conversation, because Mitnick was using stolen codes. "The phone call was a fraudulent call being made with a stolen cellular phone number. As such it wasn't protected," says Markoff.

Caught somewhere in the middle of all of this is Sprint Cellular. "I did speak with one of the technicians and the technician's supervisor," says Sal Cinquegrani, a spokesperson for Sprint Cellular. "We did receive the court order. We were told we were to meet a computer expert. That turned out to be Shimomura. Later some of the local FBI agents met [Sprint's technicians at] the mobile switching center. Subsequent to that is when Mr. Markoff appeared on the scene. Because there was a lot of interaction between Shimomura and Markoff and others, the assumption was that they all knew each other and worked together. Afterward we learned that he was a reporter. We learned it at the same time that the agents did. The agents requested that Mr. Markoff leave because they were getting into some sensitive areas of the investigation, and Mr. Markoff did in fact leave."

Markoff has taken a lot of flak in the press for his back-seat view of the chase and capture.

The truth, though, is that there isn't a journalist alive who wouldn't have gladly traded places with him. Anybody who says otherwise just has a bad case of sour grapes.



QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THAT $750,000 BOOK ADVANCE? SINCE WHEN DO *NEW YORK TIMES* REPORTERS MAKE BUSINESS DEALS WITH THEIR SOURCES? ISN'T THAT A CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST?

Answer: According to *The Times*, Markoff didn't have any ethical lapses because he took a leave of absence from *The Times* to write the book with Shimomura.

"As for our conflict-of-interest policy, John Markoff followed the necessary requirements of the policy and received prior permission from *The Times* before he signed a contract to write a book," says Nancy Nielsen, vice president for Corporate Communications of The New York Times Company.

One of the reasons that Markoff's journalistic ethics have been subject to such scrutiny is that he, Shimomura and *The New York Times* itself have done such a poor job responding to the criticism. For example, although Nielsen says that Markoff followed *The Times'* conflict-of-interest policy, she and her office refused more than seven formal requests to provide a copy of that policy to *Internet Underground*. Markoff has said on numerous occasions that his "editors" approved of his writing *Takedown*. How does that look when it is revealed that Markoff's editor, Tim Race, was flown to San Francisco during the summer of 1995 and compensated for his role in editing the *Takedown* manuscript? (Only upon further questioning does one learn that the project was approved not by Race, but by a *Times* assistant managing editor.)

ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, MARKOFF DIDN'T HAVE ANY ETHICAL LAPSES, BECAUSE HE TOOK A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM *THE TIMES* TO WRITE *TAKEDOWN* WITH SHIMOMURA.

Markoff, meanwhile, questions why everyone is ignoring Littman's supposed ethical lapse: not telling The Well that it was the subject of a break-in, when Littman knew that Mitnick was running wild on the Internet service. In *The Fugitive Game*, Littman does say that he called The Well and told them that a hacker had broken in but the person that he spoke to refused to believe the report. ●

—Tsutomu Shimomura and Tim Race declined to be interviewed for this article.

"Next thing you know, I'm on Prodigy Chat with a guy named 'Fool4Love.' What a trip! Anyway, 'Love' (that's what I like to call him) and I started talking about everything imaginable. Old flames, careers, movies and meeting online. Turns out he's a real computer whiz. 'Love' showed me all this great stuff about Prodigy including their Web Browser, Bulletin Boards and this genius feature called Interest Groups. It let's me instantly plug in to the specific area I feel passionate about, like Adventure Travel, without wasting time finding what interests me. Speaking of interests, 'Love' and I are still involved. In fact, I'm meeting him here tonight. I can't wait to see what teal blue eyes look like."

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CHAPTER 17

The Internet is not your father's house of worship.

By Beth Rosenberg

Art by Gina Binkley

[1]Floating out there in the ether are answers to your deepest spiritual questions. [2]Take an online tour of the Vatican, which includes a welcome message from the Pope himself. Grab some kosher recipes. [3]Check to see if your Methodist church has set up its home page yet. [4]You can even sign a cult's guest book and receive lots of literature and unwelcome guests.

[5]Religion on the Net is a win-win situation for both proselytizers and neophytes. [6]Religious organizations offer their ideologies to millions without being pushy. [7]Questioning souls download all the resources they want without becoming the target of some clergy person's salvation campaign. [8]And techno-savvy parishioners tithe their time creating and maintaining Web sites instead of reminding people to bring a casserole to the next church potluck.

[5]Religion on the Net

CHAPTER 2

The Internauts Shall Inherit the Earth

The Vatican's Web site rivals those of major world governments and Fortune 100 companies. It is filled with information—not cheap sales pitches, but scholarly texts, books from the Vatican Library, and world-class works of art.

Unlike the Vatican, though, most other religious groups have to make do without big bucks to maintain their 'net presence. Fortunately, if you're on a mission from God, lack of money won't dampen your enthusiasm.

A case in point is the Unitarians' Web site. "We have not had a lot of funding in this effort," says Debbie Weiner, director of public relations, marketing, and information for the Boston-based Unitarian-Universalist Association. "The Web pages have been developed totally by volunteers." UUA hopes to be able to hire a part-time Internet librarian by July.

According to Weiner, the UUA Web site, which was set up in August of 1995, has received an "enthusiastic response." During the first two months of its existence, it received over 3,000 hits. (The counter has since been taken off for lack of tech support.) And, she says, "We get a lot of e-mail from people saying that they've seen [the site] and really like it."

The members of the UUA are also in the technology forefront of the interdenominational pack. "Last year, when I went to the National Religious Conference I was really glad to see that we were in the [technological] lead," Weiner says with justifiable pride. This June, the Boston Unitarians will be hosting three workshops on how to use the World Wide Web at the Religious Conference's General Assembly.

Other established denominations and their practitioners are taking advantage of new technological forums to discuss age-old issues. Regardless of many Fundamentalist Christians' opinions that the Internet is a cesspool of smut, the number of Christian sites is booming. Alt.christnet and its manifold subdivisions (.prayer, .sex, and .second-coming-real-soon-now, to name a few) cover the posted concerns of enthusiastic believers ("Holy Spirit Online!"; "Was Jesus a Homosexual?").

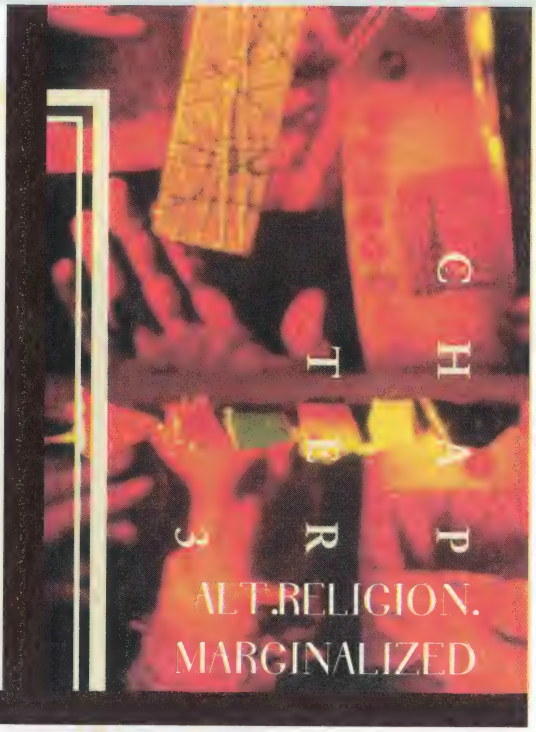
Christian business is booming—so much, in fact, that at least one of the Christian chat lines had to be temporarily shut down to put up an "industrial-strength server," according to the apologetic note on NetCentral Live Chat's home page (http://chat.netcentral.net/). The reason: three to four hundred people were logging in at a time. Jesus' virtual army marches on!

Maybe all these folks could offer the Mormons some help. Despite the frenzied outreach that is one of the hallmarks of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons have yet to offer an official Web site. The reason, says Don LeFevre, a public affairs specialist at the LDS's Salt Lake City headquarters,

is simple: "The Church leaders are very deliberate in their decision making—they want to do it at the right time."

What about the hundred-plus Web sites on Mormonism picked up by the average search engine? "All we can say is that they are unofficial, and don't represent the Church as a whole," LeFevre demurs.

(LeFevre hastens to add that a home page for the Church is "under serious consideration," and that by the time this issue of *IU* is on the stands, "we may have a site—who knows?")



Meanwhile, in another corner of cyberspace, many religions that have historically been underrepresented, or at least had their members burned at the stake, have found new life online.

Alt.pagan is a consistently popular Usenet news group, and there is a vast number of pagan resources on the Web. Just setting up hyperlinks to other pagan sites has become a cottage industry. And wading through all the pagan 'zines, pagan chat lines, online Tarot readings, and lessons in Celtic mythology might have the less tolerant hurling their crystals. This proliferation of paganism begs the question: Was the planet filled with closet Goddess-worshippers before the advent of the World Wide Web, or is the Web helping to bring about a new Aquarian Millennium? How many of these people were really into shamanism until they read about it on the 'net?

Then there are the tongue-in-cheek "personality cults," like the Church of the SubGenius and the Neutopians. SubGenii include among their tenets "break-thinking, trance induction, communion with spirits, excremeditation, trepanning, short-duration personal saviours, and the attainment of Slack," according to one of their many home pages. The Neutopians, on the other hand, hope to bring about an eco-sexual-feminist-communitarian "Lovolution," brought about by the overthrow of "Greco-Christian dominance and global capitalism."

These world views, designed for Internet consumption, would barely see the light of day without their online proponents. How many people would know about the fictional Bob Dobbs or the larger-than-life Doctress Neutopia without the constant cyberpublicity?

A Smattering of Spiritual Sites on the Web

Atheism Resources and Links by Joel Brown
http://www.public.iastate.edu/~elcid/atheism.html

Arachne's Web: Pagan and Wicca Pages
http://www.cascade.net/arachne.html

The Bahai Faith Home Page
http://oneworld.wa.com/bahai/

The Baptist Faith and Message
http://www.utm.edu/martinarea/fbc/bfm.html

Catholic Resources on the Net (unofficial)
http://www.cs.cmu.edu/Web/People/spok/catholic.html

DharmaNet Interlinks: Buddhist Studies (unofficial)
http://sunsite.unc.edu/dharma/buddhist.html

Dobbs' Web Watcher (Church of the SubGenius)
http://www.bobwerks.com/

Jews for Jesus
http://www.jews-for-jesus.org/

Judaism and Jewish Resources
http://shamash.org/trb/judaism.html

The Lutheran World Federation
http://www.wcc-coe.org/lwf.html

National Orthodox Christian Fellowship Home Page
http://www.omaccess.com/usr/om/NTL_OCF

Neutopia
http://genesis.tiac.net/neutopia/index.html

Official Vatican Web Page
http://www.christusrex.org/

Sufi Sites on the Internet
http://home.worldweb.net:80/sufi/sites.html

Unification Church
http://www.cais.com/unification/

United Methodist Information
http://www.umc.org/

Universal Life Church
http://www.ybi.com/ulc/index.html

Unofficial LDS (Mormon) Page
http://www.cachenet.com/%7Erobert/lds.html

Unitarian Universalist Organization
http://uua.org/

Welcome to the Jesus Army Pages (Charismatic Christian—unofficial)
http://www.tecc.co.uk/jesusa/

CHAPTER 4

In the 1970s, the mainstream media fed us a constant barrage of stories of white middle-class families who had their children—usually college students—abducted by "cults." The lucky ones got kidnapped back and "deprogrammed." The unlucky ones died at Jonestown. The rest are now running Web sites.

Today the Church of Scientology and the Unification Church (a.k.a. Rev. Sun Myung Moon's crowd) both have a large presence on the 'net. So does Jews for Jesus, whose lovely home page has a prominently placed guest book.

"We get between 700-800 hits a week—that is, unique computers," says Rich Robinson, "unofficial Webmaster" of Jews for Jesus' San Francisco offices. Robinson says that "maybe half a dozen people" sign the Web guest book every day, and that about half the correspondence the group receives is through mail sent from its home page. Does the Web site help in recruiting? Perhaps so: Robinson said that a University of California at Berkeley student actually came to the group's bookstore after looking at their Web site.

But like many other things you find on the 'net, *caveat emptor*. There are potential gurus out there preying on cyberspace's emotionally weakest denizens, luring them into what resemble "online cults." Consider the case of the "self-esteem-self-help" mailing list, run by one Mike Rael, a self-proclaimed 300-lb. Ph.D. candidate who seems to be hosting his show somewhere around L.A.

Rael gets his constituents from the most desperate Usenet readers. Periodically, he posts messages to newsgroups such as alt.support.disassociation (multiple personality disorder), alt.support.depression, and alt.support.social-phobia, inviting people to join self-esteem-self-help. The promise: your self-esteem and well-being will improve markedly in 30 days.

To achieve this worthy goal, subscribers must do the following: Buy an extensive list of books, cassettes and videotapes, without which the "cure" will not work; publish an intimate biography of themselves on Rael's mailing list; post something about themselves (not just responses to other people's posts) at least once a month, submit themselves to Rael's extensive psychological, intellectual, and copy-editing critiques every time they do post; not send private mail to other subscribers; and be harangued by Rael, a vociferous atheist, any time they mention their spiritual beliefs. Violating these rules causes the subscriber to be booted off the list, back into the metaphysical darkness whence they came.

Thankfully for most online believers, though, Rael's setup does not seem to be normative—and at the very least, he has often complained to his flock that they're going to have to go it alone while his hard drive gets serviced. If only David Koresh had said the same thing.

CHAPTER 5

I AND THOU AND A COUPLE MILLION OF THY ONLINE FANS

The Internet, of course, is going to alter the face of religion as we know it, just as it has altered the face of commerce, education, sex and a few other things. But folks whose glum analysis of our online future includes nothing but the further breakdown of morals and society, take note: Spirituality, organized and otherwise, is flourishing in the cyber realm. You can't take Communion, buy a challah or be called to prayer by a muezzan over the Internet—yet. But you can pick a good Lutheran church, debate with your co-religionists in real time, and buy all the writings of your favorite guru. If anyone sees evidence of the Second Coming on an IRC channel, please let us know. ○

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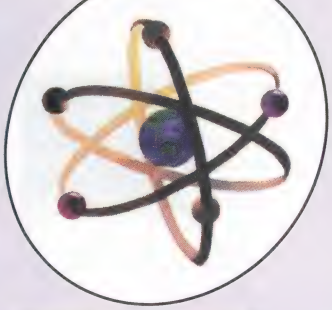

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- Exclusive *X-Files* Update
- Reviews of the Latest Releases

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- Get the word from the Top Cow's mouth on Medevial Spawn/Witchblade (Apri 5th).
- Sergio Aragones plays both DC and Marvel for April Fools (April 12th).

Plus:

The world of David Mack's "Kabuki" expands (April 26th).

Radical Dreamer reaches its Prime (April 19th).

Battlestar Galactica's new writer Richard "Apollo" Hatch.

http://www.nuke.com

CGR

- The Infocom team: A look back at how it all started.
- The first review of Ripper, Take 2 Interactive's start-studded adventure.

EGM

- Hands-On Coverage of the Nintendo 64 & The First N64 Games.
- The latest news on the M2 game system (April 5th).
- An in depth profile of Tekken2 (April 19th).
- Earthworm Jim creator Doug TenNapel talks about his new game through Dreamworks SKG (April 12th).

Your Gateway To Gaming News On The Internet.

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Lured by fast

Surf 'n' Slurp

connections, comfy chairs and

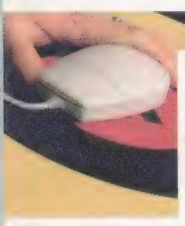
yes, darn good cups of coffee.

newbies and seasoned

vets alike are flocking

to cybercafés.

BY ALEX GORDON



Picture Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein and Ezra Pound gathered around a Macintosh, arguing over which search engine works best.

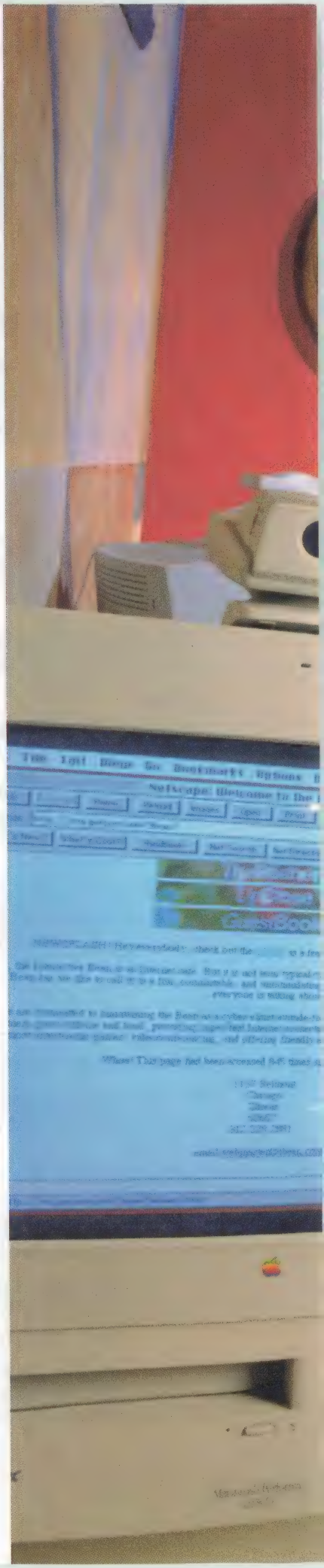
Had the Internet been a reality in the late '20s, the trio and their fellow expatriates may likely have idled away the hours sipping espresso and posting to alt.bullfighting at Cyberia or any of the other number of cybercafés that now crowd Paris' Left Bank.

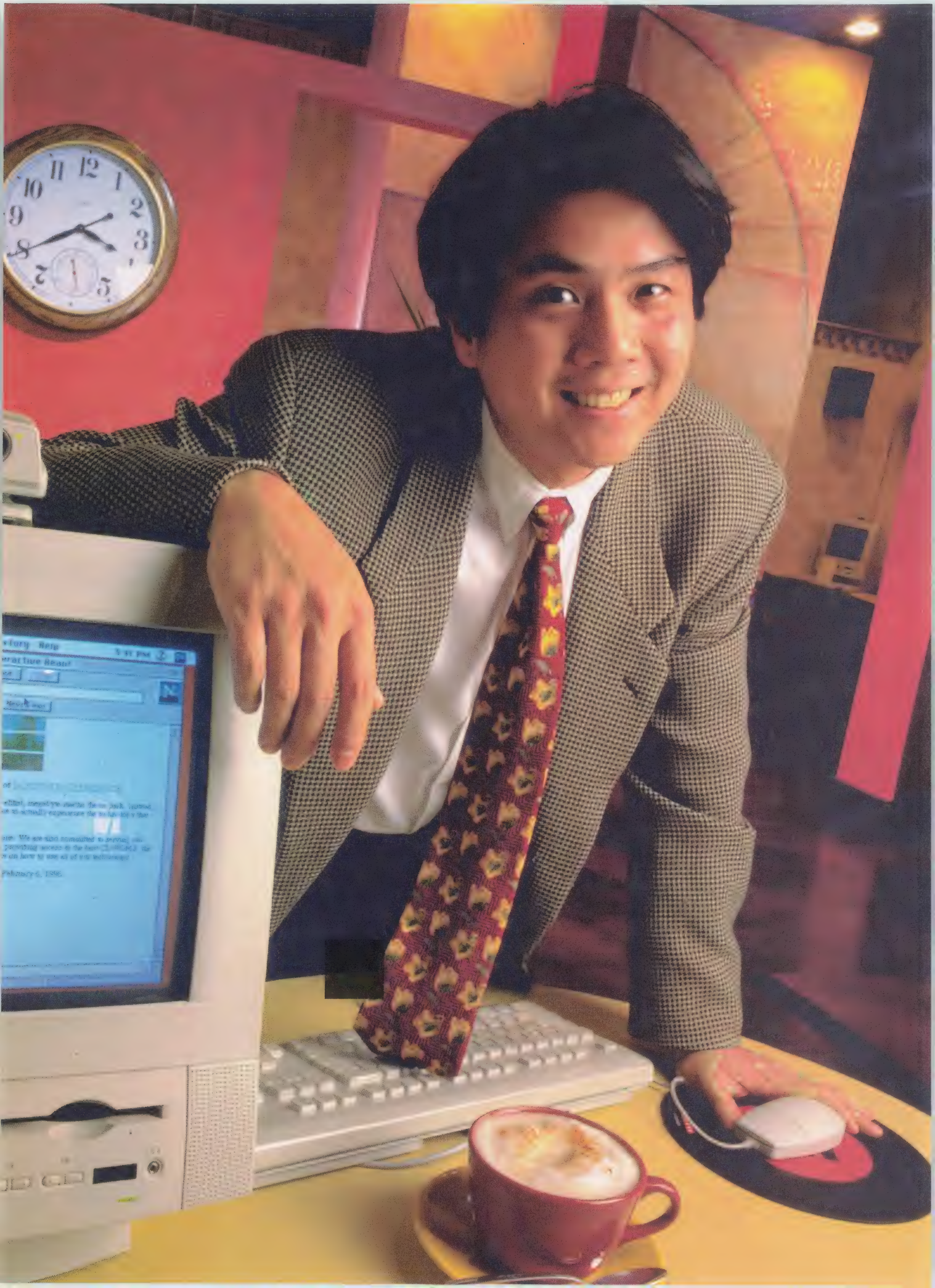
With businesses looking to expand their niches as a route to survival, (witness the combination Taco Bell/ Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet I pass every day on the way to work) the Internet café is the perfect marriage of the two biggest phenomena of the decade: $2.88 mochas and 28.8k modems.

Essentially cybercafés can be divided into two categories: cafés that happen to feature Internet connections and computer labs that happen to serve cappuccino. Once the novelty factor has passed, the key to prosperity in this booming business may be successfully blending both components. "We are a fully integrated

PERCY WANG, CO-OWNER OF THE INTERACTIVE BEAN, DISPLAYS THE BILL OF FARE AT CHICAGO'S FIRST FULL-FLEDGED CYBERCAFÉ.

PHOTOS BY BLACK/TOBY





café," says Thomas Wise, co-owner of the **Cyber Café (http://www.bid.com/bid/cybercafe/)** in the SoHo neighborhood of New York City. "We're not like a bar that just stuck a couple of pinball machines in. The Internet is integrated into everything we do."

Wise, who along with his partners opened the café last summer, says business has been brisk, with patrons coming in to get wired on both caffeine and the 'net. "Everything you need to know about the 'net is here," says Wise. Indeed the Cyber Café is fully loaded with a T1 line, state-of-the-art PCs, video cameras, full software platforms, even access to all the online services—all at the rate of $10 an hour. In addition, Wise adds, "Our coffee's good. We're all very into our coffee."

• • • • • • • • •

Cybercafés are a true global phenomenon. According to the Cyber Café Guide version 12.8 at **http://www.easynet.co.uk/pages/cafe/ccafe.htm** there are 54 Internet cafés in England alone. From Sydney to Cape Town to Rio to Warsaw to Kuala Lumpur, people are sipping lattés and using Lycos.

In fact the Internet café can trace its origins to Cyberia in London, which is largely credited by most as being the first fully wired café. After reading about Cyberia in magazines, Percy Wang, a co-owner of the Interactive Bean, Chicago's first full cybercafé, and Dan Barron, co-owner of the Big Surf in Birmingham, Mich., were inspired to open their own cafés.

Wang, a 27-year-old multimedia designer, says he and his co-owner, Andrew Laing read about Cyberia and decided they needed "a place like that to hang out ourselves." Wang says they originally shelved the idea of a café to concentrate on their design business, GORP New Media, until clients started asking for help designing Web sites. Wang did a little research and since there were essentially no cybercafés in Chicago, the pair decided to give it a try.

"The Interactive Bean is friendly place," says Wang. Indeed, the **Interactive Bean (http://iris.gorpnm.com/ibean/)** is meant to be a place where a newbie can feel comfortable asking questions while getting their feet wet. Wang says the café, which opened in December last year, isn't a techno-macho place. In fact, the staff has more of a service background than tech background. "It's easier to teach someone to use Netscape than to teach them to be nice to someone."

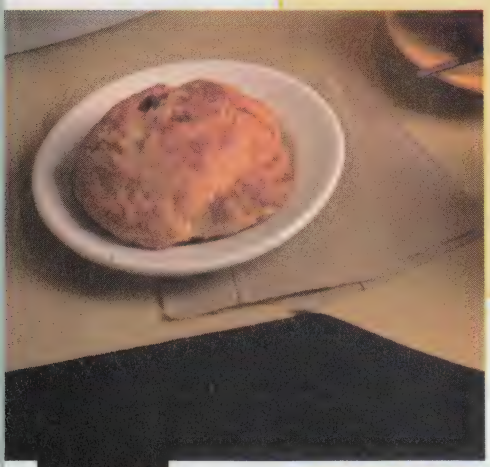
In addition to 10 computers and a T1 line, the Bean offers patrons their own e-mail accounts for $10 a month plus discounts on the café's normal rate of 16 cents a minute for computer time. Wang says he was expecting more of a "Generation X-type crowd," but surprisingly the average patron has been in their mid-30s, which may speak as much to the café's strict "no smoking" policy than the lure of the Internet.

Surfing the 'net in a café environment turns what can be a very lonely hobby into a social experience, says Wang. It's not unusual for groups of three or four to be clustered around the café's Macs. Wang likes to emphasize the interactive aspect of the café, stressing that even if the Internet boom goes bust, the café still features CD-ROMs and other bells and whistles. "We even have Jenga!" says Wang.

Veronica Barron, who along with her husband Don and four other partners owns the **Big Surf (http://bigweb.com/cafe/)**, also stresses a friendly and accessible atmosphere. In addition to the computers and coffee, the café is decorated like a 1940s Jamaican beach hut, which enhances the relaxed atmosphere.

Barron says the café's philosophy revolves around two main components: Bring the Internet to the people and create a multi-faceted business. "People are sick of sitting in their spare bedroom staring at their computers. It's more fun to surf the 'net in our environment, plus it's faster (the café features a T1 line). It's just a more satisfying experience."

The crowd at the Big Surf ranges from moms with toddlers in the morning, to a brisk business lunch, to late-night singles hanging out in chat rooms. For newbies



SURF WITH A SCONE: AT $10 AN HOUR, CYBERCAFÉS AREN'T CHEAP. WILL T1 LINES AND TASTY DESSERTS KEEP PATRONS COMING, OR WILL THEY BECOME THE FOTOMATS OF THE '90S?

the café business, Sudbury says that it's ended up being a lot more food service than high tech. "The café stuff takes up 95 percent of the time. Anyone who wants to open a café has to be aware that they'll be owning a café primarily."

Sudbury says that adding terminals to an established café can be as simple as expanding a menu. In fact, Sudbury is finalizing plans for Java Link, based on SF Net in San Francisco and Cafenet in Los Angeles, where cafés can get second-generation units for their patrons to use, much like pay phones.

the café offers Internet 101 classes that cover all the bases or patrons can also ask staff members questions or for site suggestions.

Café Liberty (http://cafeliberty.com/), located in a basement space in Cambridge, Mass., leans toward the café side of the cybercafé equation.

Jon Sudbury, the café's 26-year-old co-owner, says he doesn't think it makes sense to open up a new café designed primarily for surfing. "A lot of places are opening now that build big elaborate systems... it just doesn't make sense. It's like reinventing the wheel." Café Liberty has three computers hooked up to the 'net, and at $4 an hour with a T1 connection, Sudbury says the café attracts both novices as well as experts from next-door neighbor MIT. "Why would an MIT student use our machines and pay money when they are free at school? It turns out that people enjoy dropping by the café during the day and not having to go into the lab to check their e-mail. People like to be around other human beings."

Even though it was the computer aspect that attracted him to

People are sick of sitting in their spare bedrooms staring at their computers.

-Veronica Barron, co-owner of Big Surf

When cafés first started to gather steam again in the early '90s, most cities featured dozens of independent spaces, each with its own unique style and atmosphere. Of course, at the same time there was a small chain in Seattle, the coffee capital of the free world, known as Starbucks. Now with the ubiquitous mermaid logo dotting seemingly every street corner in the country's urban centers and strip malls in finer suburbs everywhere, and many of those early coffee houses now housing bagel shops or fresh baked bread stores, can a cybercafé chain be far behind?

David Green, the co-owner of **Café Internet** (http://www.cafe-inet.com) in Port Townsend, Wash., is betting on it. Green has recently started to offer franchises of his café, offering (besides the

trademarked name): support services, exclusive apparel, buying power, advertising, established protocols and even Cafe Internet coffees and syrups.

So far, Green says he's had inquiries from all over the country. Green, whose own café features a French motif with classical music and fresh flowers, three computers and an ISDN connection, says many inquiries have come from tourists who stop in the café for a cup of coffee and to check their e-mail while they're on vacation.

If an ordinary cybercafé seems too run-of-the-mill, someday soon you'll be able to sip your espresso and browse ESPN from the comfort of the top of an authentic double-decker bus. **Circus Espresso Bars (http://www.island.net/~circus/)** have recently begun to advertise their "Super Cyber Espresso Bus" concept, double-decker buses direct from Great Britain with full espresso bars downstairs and computer terminals upstairs. Jonathon Fenton, the co-president of Circus, says the buses have the advantage of generating extra excitement; plus if you don't like your location you can always just move. At press time, no one had stepped up to purchase a Cyber bus—a fully loaded one costs $64,000—but Fenton is so confident that the concept can work he's pitched the idea to Apple and Microsoft, hoping one of the corporations would want to use a bus as a cyberbookmobile for the '90s.

While the number of cybercafés seems to grow every day, , it will be consumers who ultimately determine whether they're more comfortable in their homes or in a café, surfing and slurping.

COFFEE, TEA OR HTTP?

Internet Underground can be found at more than 100 cybercafés throughout the world. In addition to those cafés mentioned in the story, here's a sampling of some other fine establishments. For a more complete listing of cybercafés check out http://www.easynet.co.uk/pages/cafe/ccafe.htm or http://www.flightpath.com/Brento/InternetCafes.HTML. For more on the whole cybercafe phenomenon, check out **Café Magazine** at http://www.gold.net/users/fy15/

UNITED STATES

East

@cafe
12 St. Mark's Place
New York, NY
http://www.fly.net/

alt.coffee
139 Avenue A
New York, NY
http://www.altdotcoffee.com

The InterNet Cafe,
Upstairs at 2 Union Street,
Nantucket, MA
jerry@Nantucket.net

The Internet Cafe
342 Adams Ave
Scranton, PA
http://www.scranton.com

Sheffield Pub
223 Main St.
Sheffield, MA
http://www.tiac.net/users/longleyr/spizza/

West

Cafe@Netherworld
1278 Pennsylvania St.
Denver, CO
http://www.Netherworld.COM/café

Coffeetopia
13266-B Hwy 9
Boulder Creek, CA
http://www.webventure.com/coffeetopia/

CU Cafe
223 Baker Ave.
Whitefish, MT
http://www.cucafe.com

Cyber City Cafe
3945 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV
http://www.cybercitycafe.com

Cyber Java
1029 Abbot Kinney Blvd.
Venice, CA
http://www.CyberJava.com/

The Habit
2633 SE 21st St.
Portland OR
http://www.habit.com/~habit/index.bak.html

Lucy's Cyber Restaurant
& Katchi-Katchi Espresso Bar
161 Alamaha
Kahului, Maui, HI
http://www.maui.net/~lucys_pl

Majordomo's Net Cafe
1401 Ogden Street
Denver, CO
http://www.majordomos.com

Speakeasy Cafe
2304 2nd Ave.
Seattle, WA
http://speakeasy.org

South

c@fe.net.
Waterside Live
Entertainment Center
Norfolk, VA
http://www.waterside-live.com/cafe/index/html

Cup@Joe
2109-142 Avent Ferry Rd.
Raleigh, NC
http://www4.nando.net/ads/cspot/

Electro Grind
Alafaya Trail and East Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL
jameze@iag.net

Get Wired
4408 Wood Valley Dr.
Raleigh, NC
http://www.getwired.com

Midwest

The Coffee Grounds
226 Washington Ave.
Grand Haven, MI
http://www.novagate.com/~rstricker/rsa_top.html

Four Friends Coffeehouse
136 Monroe Center
Rapids, MI
http://www.iserv.net:80/~4friends/Grand

Urbus Orbis
1934 W North Ave.
Chicago, IL
urborb@well.com

INTERNATIONAL

Café Access
Stockholm, Sweden
http://www.cafeaccess.se/

Café Orbital
Paris, France
http://www.easynet.co.uk/pages/cafe/ccafe_fr.htm#orbital

Cyber Cafe Club
Hong Kong
http://www.hk.linkage.net/~infoctr

CYBA Cafe
Auckland, New Zealand
russell@cybacafe.co.nz

CybeRyder
Frankfurt, Germany
http://www.cyberyder.de

Human Space Cyber Te@ House
Taipei, Taiwan
http://www.cafe.hinet.net

Netropolis Virtual Cafe Bar
Aberdeen, Scotland
rtdesign@wintermute.co.uk

CANADA

Cafe Electronique
405 St-Sulpice
Montreal, Quebec
http://www.infobahnos.com/~café

eRendezvous
540 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
http://www.erendezvous.com/

Global Net Cafe
201-2216-27 Ave N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
http://www.netway.ab.ca/gnc/gnc.html

Zine's Infocafe
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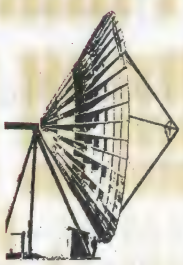

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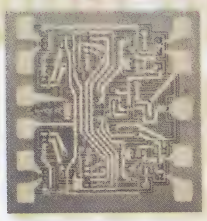
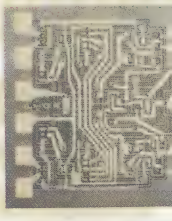




HIS TORY REPEATS ITSELF?

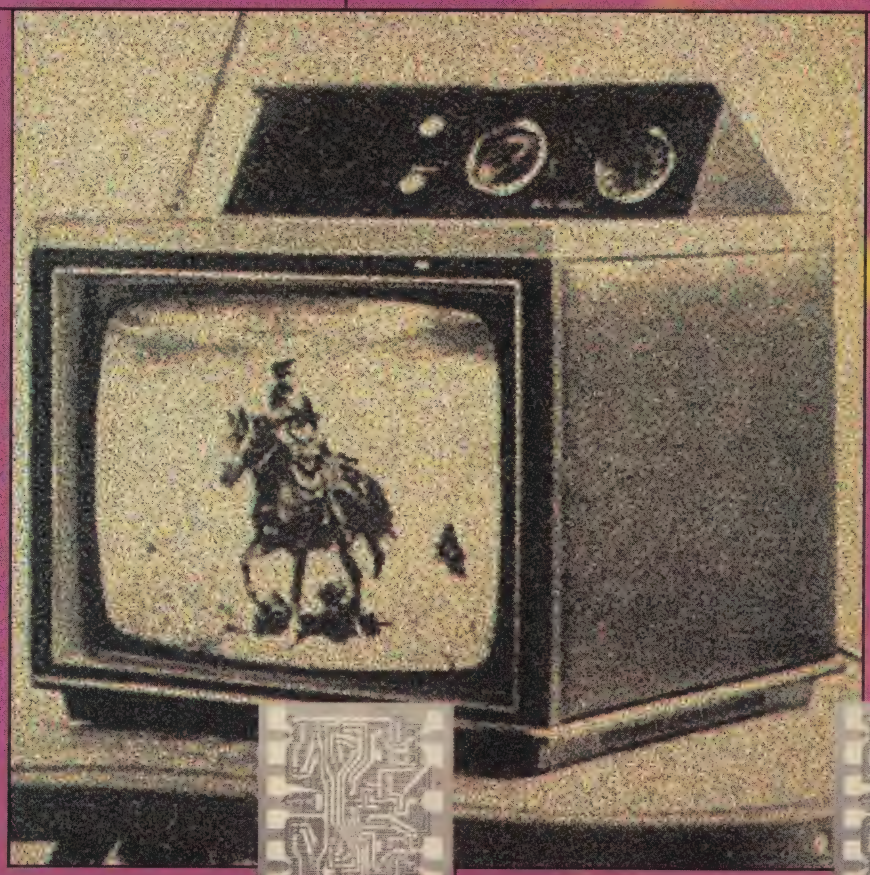
WANT TO FIGURE OUT THE FUTURE OF THE 'NET? START BY LOOKING AT THE HISTORY OF TV, RADIO AND TELEPHONE.

Familiar warnings: "This new technology could bring the downfall of democracy, the free-for-all of unedited information requires serious regulation and it might replace real sex with artificial interaction." Sound like comments from detractors of the Internet? Guess again. These ominous predictions were made by critics of radio 70 years ago.

Although it's revolutionary, the 'net isn't without precedents. There's no reason why we should all be so baffled by advances in communication. After all, we've launched electronic media in this country before. Yet, if there's one lesson that can be culled from the history of information innovation, it's this: Never underestimate the ability of a new technology to confuse.

The Internet is hitting adolescence, and as anyone past puberty knows, adolescence is kind of a horrible thing. Sure, you get a little more freedom, but now you're considered old enough to be responsible for your actions. Just as you're getting used to self-awareness, you're now big enough to be regulated. The Internet is just hitting that stage, and even if it's not a pretty sight, at least it's not alone: In order to understand what's happening to the 'net, it helps to take a look back.

Here's a quick history of the Internet, stripped of excess chaff like dates and names: The government built a network, scientists and educators hopped on to send e-mail, graphical interfaces and the Web were created, someone realized money could be made and interested parties ranging from Ford Motor to fishmongers logged on. On a cursory level, parallels between the growth of the Internet and other media seem pervasive. First, the Internet, like radio, was initially a medium for hobbyists and techies, along with a prominent cadre of military folk; second, the medium wasn't initially intended for entertainment purposes, but became quickly commercialized; and third, the net was initially met with fear. Many of these patterns have recurred since the printing press, but history repeats itself only to a point—in several crucial areas, the analogies fail.



WHY THE INTERNET'S THE SAME

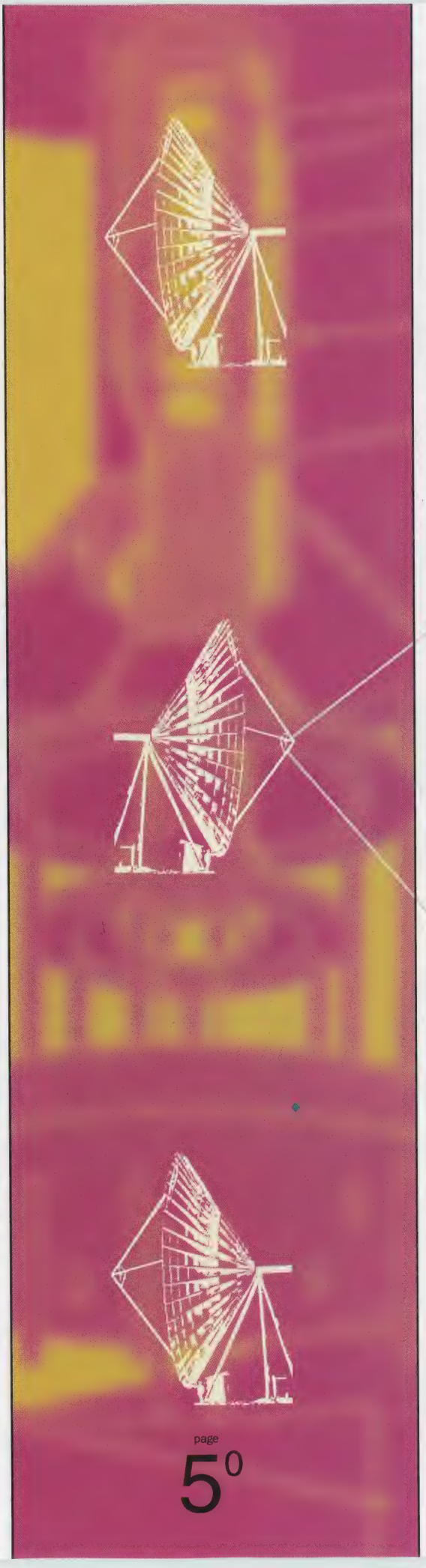
When Marconi first started sending radio signals from ship to shore in the late 1890s, observers from the Army and Navy were peering over his shoulder. Radio was thought to have enormous military potential, which turned out to be true, but also little appeal to the mainstream populace, which was an absurd miscalculation. The Navy saw the most potential in wireless communication, since radio waves allowed ships to speak, not only to each other, but to shore. For some reason, Navy officials assumed that no one else would need it; after World War I, when amateurs were booted off the air for sending mock orders to boats, Navy officers even proposed that radio be a **monopoly** controlled by them. Thanks to a few ornery amateurs and skeptical senators, this failed, but it took another

few years before the rest of the public interest showed up. During that time, radio spread among amateurs, who also happened to make most of the innovations. Radio, like the 'net in its early years, wasn't seen as a commercially viable entertainment medium.

Once wireless took off, however, its pace was explosive. Companies like Westinghouse saw the importance of broadcasting and radio stations sprouted across the landscape like dandelions. Like the 'net, radio was initially seen as a clean, enterprise-free medium. "In the early days, the sale of receivers was the dominant equation," explains Nicholas Johnson, a former Federal Communications Commission member now teaching at the University of Iowa. "As late as the 1930s, there was talk of sustaining programming, since without programming, you can't sell receivers." Commercials were seen as not only superfluous, but destructive; in a 1924 speech to a radio conference, even Herbert Hoover (then Secretary of Commerce, a post which held enormous sway over broadcasting) warned of the dangers of ads: "I believe that the quickest way to kill broadcasting would be to use it for direct advertising. The reader of the newspaper has an option whether he will read an ad or not, but if a speech by the president is to be used as the meat in a sandwich of two patent medicine advertisements, there will be no radio left."

Well, Hoover guessed wrong, which he proved quite adept at doing. Advertising took over the medium faster than you can say Palmolive, just as the purity of the 'net died a painful death at the hands of things like Zima. Radio became commercialized, and big money started to fill private coffers. You can even find a parallel to the ridiculous stock rise of Netscape in the form of the Radio Corporation of America. RCA stock rocketed from $85.25 a share in early 1928 to more than $500 a share in the summer of 1929. Of course, the summer of 1929 was followed by the autumn of 1929, and we all know how that ended up.

The major recurring theme in new media introduction, however, comes from public sentiment. The Internet might be taking a lot of flak, but it's certainly not historically over-abused; even Gutenberg's Bible was initially burned as the work of the devil. Radio and TV weathered hefty assaults as well, especially in the realm of politics. "One of the things said about radio by print journalists was that radio would bring the downfall of democracy," says Gwenyth Jackaway, associate chair of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at Fordham University in New York City. "If politicians could speak directly to the people, it was thought that people would then b e susceptible to demagoguery." Al Stavitky, an assistant professor of journalism and communication at the University of Oregon, pinned down many of these fears as a result of the era—since the rise of radio came right after World War I, people were hypersensitive to the effects of propaganda. Says Stavitky: "There was a sense that people could be brainwashed, a sense that audiences were passive, that you could just inject things through the air."



And, of course, there were the typical social and sexual fears. Just as cybersex dominates discourse about the effects of the 'net, critics harped on radio's potential damage to sexual mores with similar broken-record regularity. "If you sat all the time listening to your headphones, you might learn to prefer radio to human companionship, or so the theory went," explains Donna Halper, an expert in broadcasting history who teaches at Emerson College in Boston. "Worse than that, you might no longer wish to procreate—since radio was in its early days a fad fueled largely by boys and men in amateur radio clubs. Numerous cartoons showed such themes as this: a weeping bride on her wedding night watching in horror while her new husband sat on the bed with head-phones and receiving set, totally ignoring everything except the radio."

Television, cinema and even the telephone were looked at as equally insidious. With the telephone, for example, fears ran rampant that female operators would whisk away husbands and businessmen into hedonistic trysts. Meanwhile, cinemas, according to Jackaway, were seen as dangerous dens of darkness where young people would be tempted into all sorts of naughtiness. The latter, of course, proved somewhat true, but at least it wasn't blamed in a 1922 newspaper editorial for "the international wave of social hysteria that culminated in World War I." Jazz on the radio took that fall.

"A new toy comes along, and people get distracted," says Jackaway. "Of course, the tech-

nology itself gets blamed instead of people's self-discipline. The technology is portrayed as seductive and the people as helpless to its charms." The Internet, similarly, is portrayed as too powerful for our flaccid wills. If someone doesn't do something about it, the theory goes, we'll all forsake our mates and jobs and spend all day spanking the 'net. Technology has always been feared, likewise it's always been hailed as the answer. Just as many people speak glowingly of the 'net's potential to transform education, previous innovations were welcomed as steps toward global harmony and brightness. On the whole, technological utopians and pessimists probably number about the same—the pessimists are just louder.

WHY IT'S DIFFERENT

For the most part, however, the 'net grew into a completely different beast. When looked at closely, comparisons fall apart. Analogies fail because of two major factors: First, the Internet grew differently as a business; and second, content was created in an entirely new manner. The latter, with the passage of the Telecommunications Bill, gains a newfound prominence in terms of regulation, but the former explains why the 'net may develop differently from here on out.

Radio may have started with amateurs, but its subsequent rise came from a distinctly corporate monster. Radio thrived, in part, thanks to a consolidation of power, with one group of companies controlling just about every aspect of the medium's spread. In October 1919, RCA was formed by four companies holding over 2,000 patents: AT&T, Westinghouse, General Electric, and United Fruit. A member of the government (usually military) sat on its board, greasing the bureaucratic skids while RCA divided up every aspect of radio production from receivers to phone lines to station ownership. With the formation of NBC, owned by GE, Westinghouse, AT&T and RCA, this small group now controlled content as well. Sure, the harmony didn't last forever, but the quarrels had the same kind of moral gravity as the baseball strike. Possessing enormous amounts of dough, they had to figure out how to divvy it up. The Internet has seen nothing like this kind of power—even Microsoft has had less control of the development of computers than RCA had of radio and television. The growth of the Internet represented freedom of content; the growth of radio and TV stemmed from the impressive power of a monopoly.

While the Internet flourished because nothing held it back, radio and television thrived in a vastly different regulatory environment. When radio first expanded after World War I, it practically begged for regulation. Why? People were crowding the bandwidth. "There was a rationale for regulation that doesn't exist now, and that was that far more people wanted to broadcast than there was room," says former FCC member Johnson. "Someone had to decide who got the frequency." That someone was the Federal Radio Commission, forerunner of the FCC. Since both radio and television weren't unlimited mediums, the process of allocating frequencies required that public interest be kept in mind. If only a few stations could get licenses, the chosen ones had to conform to a set of regulations. No one really seemed to mind—back in the 1920s, Johnson points out, government wasn't seen as an all-pervasive evil. "At the time, civilized nations were not panicked at the prospect of government regulation. The government was the good guys," he said.

But that's not all that different. We also live in a different creative climate as well. The Web developed through the efforts of individuals in a largely unpredicted way, and even as the Internet falls more into what government and business expect it to be, the blindside of its genesis still makes it unique. Cartoonists predicted TV in the 1870s, but no one anticipated the phenomenon of the 'net. "When you hook up a whole bunch of computers together, and all that people have been doing with their computers is their own computing, people don't see why that's exciting," says Jackaway. "That may have been a bigger imaginative leap than people were prepared to make."

This unpredicted leap meant that no one could instantly cash in, and the way the Internet is built prohibits any one force from dominating anyway, at least in terms of content. The reasoning for regulating the 'net like television therefore falls apart, since content can expand without limitation. Regulating bodies justify themselves only in terms of guarding over the public interest, but in the electronic communications field, that public interest concern was initially raised only because radio waves were scarce and thus public property. Internet bandwidth is neither.

So where does that leave us? On unfamiliar ground. Can we get much of a grip on the future via the past? Sure, a little bit. We've clearly gotten better at accepting new technology. Once the novelty of the Internet wears off, we'll be able to address its problems with a common vernacular.

People are clearly becoming more comfortable with advances. No one calls online connectors (except maybe AOL) spawn of the devil anymore. Cybersex isn't about to replace procreation. But even if history allows us to create a context, it doesn't teach us how to deal with innovation once analogies fall apart. All we can do is wait, not screw it up, and hope that eventually the Internet will be accepted. If not, we can all just burn our browsers and start over.

TELEVISION, RADIO AND EVEN THE TELEPHONE WERE LOOKED AT AS EQUALLY INSIDIOUS

WARNING: TOO MUCH TIME ON THE COMPUTER MAY PUT YOU AT RISK FOR NEUROLOGICAL AND MUSCULAR TERRORS!!!

Surf

The dead nearly killed my wrists.

By Kathleen Flinn

I had this job at a newspaper, typing in obituaries. The newspaper was in Florida, so a lot of people passed on daily. Each morning, I typed fast and hard, trying to get the newly deceased names to the copy editors by the 6 p.m. deadline. After a few weeks, hot streams of pain were creeping up my arms. The back of my wrists felt tight. I woke up in the middle of the night, cramped and sometimes crying.

I went to doctors, who slapped my fragile wrists into custom-made splints. I had cortisone injected directly into my wrists. I went to physical therapy and squeezed little cushiony balls. I received a few weeks of "light duty." All the while, I swallowed ibuprofen in near fatal quantities.

If the dead didn't do it, the 'net nearly finished my wrists off.

How to Combat it? Improve your

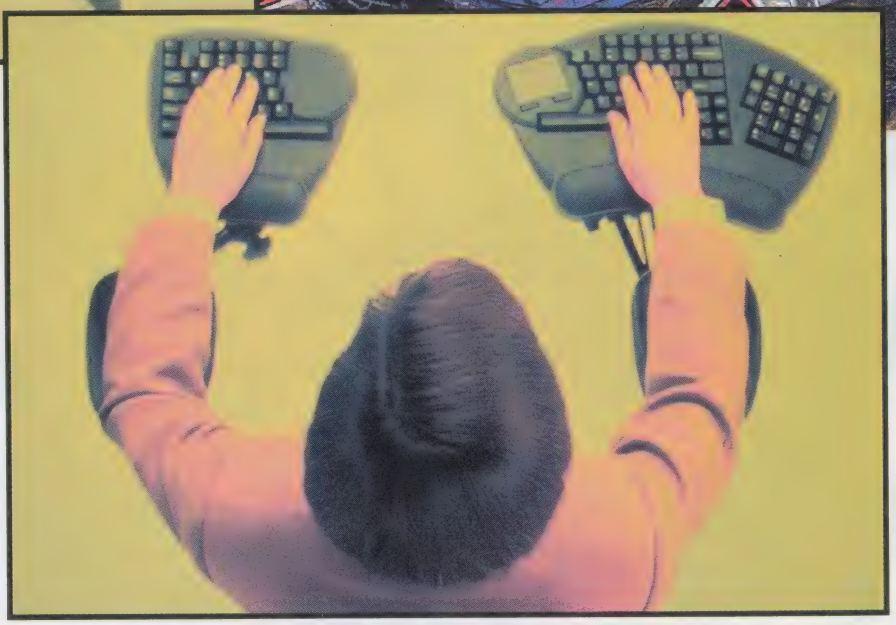
RSI Conditions

art by Rich Borge

My daily missives and lengthy e-mails to friends, searching the 'net (in the days before the Web), pointing and clicking my way through FTP and gopher sites, posting to newsgroups and hanging out in chat rooms cast me into further suffering. The mouse was a rat and a fink; after an hour of using it, I sometimes felt numbness in my fingers.

Welcome to the world of repetitive stress injury, a painful place filled with terms such as tendonitis and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. It used to be occupied only by those who worked in offices. But considering more people are logging onto the 'net at home, families are a target as well. A couple of hours of accessing the 'net daily

can put you in the same potentially crippling arena as a professional data cruncher. If you work on a computer by day, then come home and surf at night, your chances of straining your muscles doubles or triples. If you like Inter Relay Chat or those infamous online service chat rooms, consider that just a few sessions of typing, at speeds fast enough to keep up a "conversation," can put you in the splints. What's to blame? Your keyboard.



NO PAIN, NO STRAIN; THE FLOATING ARMS KEYBOARD AND CHAIR

QWERTY

Today's flat design is infinitely more dangerous than the upright keyboards of typewriters. Ever notice in those old office photos that the keyboards were lower? The typist did not have to strain his or her back. The necessity of occasionally returning the carriage built in automatic breaks.

"The typewriter was much safer for the human body because of one critical aspect and that is, it did not allow you to rest your wrists while you typed," notes Deborah Quilter, co-author of the book *Repetitive Strain Injury: A Computer User's Guide* (Wiley & Sons, New York).

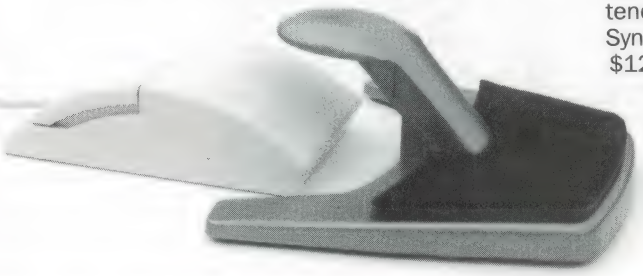
The introduction of a flat keyboard for computers took away that safety. The inherent keyboard design forces people to use the delicate muscles in their arms and wrists, rather than the heavier muscles in their backs that the typewriter tended to utilize.

Funny thing is, computer keyboards didn't have to be designed even remotely similar to their typewriter companions. The standard keyboard, starting with the letters QWERTY in the upper left hand corner, was set up with the keys close together so that the old-fashioned metal striking mechanism could work. Taking that out of the equation allows for a greater interpretation of how a keyboard can be designed.

Enter in wacky new ergonomic keyboards. Ergonomics is the study of how to adapt people to their environments and it has become a buzzword in the past few years as the number of repetitive stress injuries skyrocketed.

Of course, there's worker's compensation to pay for the damages if you can prove you wrecked your wrists, your eyesight or your back while on the job. What about those who simply use their computers at home, to access the Internet? Or those who aggravate existing problems with poor computer setups at home? Not many home computer owners really consider the placement of their equipment, how they sit or the quality of the lighting in which they work, Quilter notes. That puts them even more at risk.

But consider that the average cost cited to treat serious tendonitis or Carpal Tunnel Syndrome cases ranges from $12,000 to $26,000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Maybe it's worth investing in some preventative equipment and practicing a little precaution when using your computer.



Convalescent keyboards

The main thrust behind ergonomic keyboards is to get your hands out of a flat position and put less strain on your tender upper-arm muscles. Some do this by splitting the keyboard for added comfort, and others by tilting the keyboard so that it's more vertical. A few, like Kinesis Corporation's ergonomic keyboard, sink the keys deep into a molded keyboard to support the wrists while typing.

But the other problem, even when using a special keyboard, is that most people type too hard. If you don't update your keyboard, at least invest in a wrist rest—then position your chair in a way so that your feet are flat on the floor, that your back is straight, and importantly, that your hands meet the keyboard in a flat,

relaxed line. Then, when you type, use a light touch.

Perhaps the most vital key is not to brush off pain. Tendonitis and CTS can lead to permanent nerve damage, possibly crippling the ability to use your wrists.

Back side stories

Where you sit as you type is as essential as how you type. Virtually all RSI experts suggest using chairs specifically designed for ergonomically correct sitting and a few even incorporate the chair with the ergonomic keyboard. One such solution is the Floating Arms Keyboard from Workplace Designs. The system isn't cheap: the going price ranges from $1,000 to $1,500. If you haven't got that kind of cash, the most important thing to invest in is a comfortable chair —and always, always consider *how* you're sitting. Slouching forces the vertebrae into unhealthy positions that can cause serious muscle strain. Make it a point to set up your computer so that you can sit up straight, in a comfortable, padded chair. "People are putting space-age equip-ment on Gutenberg work stations," notes Quilter.

Mousing

That little mouse might seem innocuous enough, but it too can cause some serious cases of tendonitis. Numerous companies have developed products to alleviate the strain. PC Puck by Back Basics ($11 a pair) is a round disc that's supposed to "float" along with your hand. Then there's the Ergowrist by Ergolink ($12), designed to cover the mouse and support the wrist (reviewed in this issue). The GyroPoint Desk from Gyration ($149) can be used on or off the desktop, allowing for more user positions and thereby making it easier on the wrists. Changing the way mousing works is the Touche Touchpad ($60), which allows users to simply point their fingers, rather than their wrists, to operate the on-screen arrows.

No matter what you use to protect your wrists, for goodness sakes, get in the habit of checking your sitting position and become aware of where you're working. And take regular breaks. Pull yourself away from the dark hole that can come in so many forms on the 'net, from lengthy IRC sessions to scooting around Web sites or just writing lots of e-mail. Pet your cat, take out the trash. There's a whole world out there, you know.

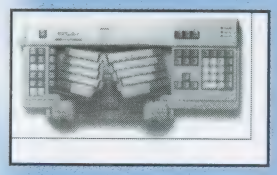
- With additional reporting by Steven Greenlee

THE WRIST OF THE STORY

Using a special keyboard designed for more ergonomic typing may help alleviate strain. Below are a sampling of keyboards on display at the Typing Injury FAQ, compiled by David Wallach. For more keyboards, check it out at **http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~dwallach/tifaq/keyboards.html**

DATAHAND

Datahand Systems
Price: $995
Contact: 602-860-8584
Each hand has its own pod with a number of switches, including a QWERTY-like keyboard structure. This system keeps wrist movement to an absolute minimum.

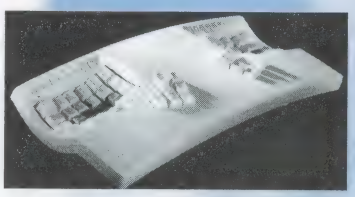


ERGOLO

ErgoLogic Enterprises
Price: $399
Contact: 604-433-0111
The split keyboard flips up for typing on a slant.

ERGO MASTER

Genovation
Price: $495
Contact: 800-822-4333
Ego Master comes in two pieces that are attached to a track installed along the edge of your desk. It has adjustable angles and positions.

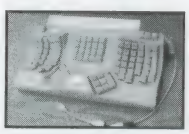


KINESIS

Kinesis Corp.
Price: $275
Contact: 206-402-8181
Each hand has its own set of key positions for the minimal use of finger travel.

LEXMARK

Lexmark Corporation
Price: $179
Contact: 800-438-2468
Split and angled keyboard allows you to adjust it for comfort.



MALTRON

Maltron Limited
Contact: 215-688-6866
Maltron produces several varieties. This layout allows for more use by the thumb.

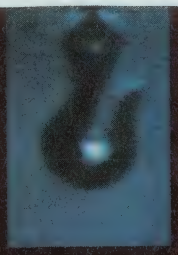


photo by Jean Lannen
text by Eric Snider

on the 'net

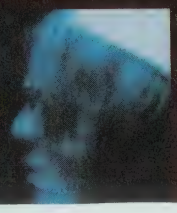
TODD RUNDGREN

Todd Rundgren has what most would consider an unusual goal regarding his music career.

He wants to give his music away.

That's right. Make it available for anyone to download free. In a career that has spanned more than a quarter-century, and featured such hits as "Hello, It's Me" and "I Saw the Light," Rundgren has sold a lot of records. But he's never been quite comfortable with it. At various points, it appears as if he intentionally

Todd Rundgren dressed for divinity in a music video (right). He plans to use the Internet to give his work away to the masses.



w i t h

submarined his own imminent rock stardom by following a commercialy successful project with something patently experimental.

"As far as my art goes, I'm trying to structure my life so that I can give it away," Rundgren says. "I don't feel comfortable charging people for it. I have pretenses to being a fine artist. The record industry is becoming too ridiculous. It has completely destroyed the concept of music as art. You don't qualify as a musician unless you sell records. Everyone who makes a record thinks, 'This has got to sell.' What is that doing to their art? They wouldn't do certain things unless it sold. I don't want that kind of paint on my personal expression."

"I can produce records for money and have other means of income, but I want to make records just to make them. At this point, it is possible for me not to depend on record sales any longer. I want to deliver to anyone who's interested."

Rundgren, a musician who has long danced on the leading edge of technology, embraced interactive music in the '90s. "I am the poster boy for interactivity," he says with a laugh. (He has even given himself a *nom-de-disque*: TR-i, for "Todd Rundgren Interactive.") In 1993, he was the first pop music artist to create and release an interactive CD-

ROM. Titled *No World Order*, it allowed the user/listener to manipulate and deconstruct via computer the various sounds, textures and sequences throughout the disc. At the same time Rundgren wrote and recorded the music, he and assisting programmers were developing a test bed for the new technology. "My goal in *No World Order* was to probe the concept of interactive music," he explains. "It required me to think about the music in certain ways. The music had to be cut up so that it could be moved around. 'We have to keep these transitions clean. I can't put lyrics that overlap where the cuts might be.' After that, my objective was to get back to something more musical."

To that end, he released *The Individualist* last fall. A departure from the techno-ized, sometimes cold flavor of *No World Order,* the disc is something of a return to the pop melodies associated with his earlier work, although the tracks are largely synthesizer-driven. Instead of making it a fully interactive disc, he opted for CD-plus, a software format that works in conventional compact disc players, but when plugged into a CD-ROM offers additional graphic elements.

"This one's about music," Rundgren says. "I had to be able to service the traditional buying audience, but if you happen to have a computer and a ROM drive, you can put it in there and enhance the experience to some degree. There is some degree of interactivity. It adds another vector."

• • • • •

Todd Rundgren is not a 'net hog. There's simply not enough time. In fact, you could easily nickname him Backslash: songwriter/producer/vocalist/instrumentalist/programmer/graphic artist/consultant/poster boy. Rundgren does use the 'net for specific purposes, but to co-opt a line from *Apocalypse Now,* "Todd don't surf."

"I get in every once in awhile when I have something specific to look for," he says. "But I don't spend time there for personal enjoyment. Then I would be forced to stop trying to put meaning into things. Everything that happens to me is pregnant with meaning. I look at the Web as this kind of giant public domain CD-ROM, kind of like shareware but with a browser. A lot of the stuff on there is hack work that people just threw together. Some of them crash your machine. It's not well-supported or maintained. You may occasionally come upon extraordinary unsung works of one kind or another, but at this point the frantic commercialization of the Web is something of a disincentive to cruise. It's like a strip mall. There's all these hot buttons. It's like riding along a Dallas highway where there's nothing but fucking billboards. It's hard to find substantive content. And it's obscured by blizzards of links, which attaches crap to crap."

Despite his misgivings, Rundgren sees potential value in the Internet. He has signed on with CompuServe to create a new interactive music forum. The area is expected to go live on June 1 and will offer information about the emerging world of interactive music, as well as images, video clips, MIDI (Musical Instrumental Digital Interface) and sound files that members can manipulate to concoct their own blends of music and images. Members will also be able to contribute files and samples to produce collaborative efforts that span continents.

"Our 'net presence will bypass the Web," Rundgren explains. "You'll use 'net protocol to get into our application. The flat world browsing thing will be for the strip mall crowd. We're setting up something more like a Neiman Marcus. It will be a place unto itself. If we do that, we can make sure the resources are provided. Our whole paradigm is that everyone loves the 'net, but the problem is the Web is based on print, a page format paradigm. Everything looks like a magazine or a catalogue, despite all the attempts to add plug-ins. The impression is you get this hydra-headed monster being burdened beyond its original design. It's like putting wings on a dog."

"In general, the Web is a good way of finding what's out there, but not a good way of presenting what's out there," he says.

"You'll be able to find us on the Web, you can FTP to us. We will create a visceral experience that you would expect out of local resources like CD-ROMs or television. People talk themselves into being intrigued by postage stamp-sized QuickTime movies. I just don't buy that. I don't enjoy it. I want something to fill the whole screen, have nice sound, good quality music, an immersive experience. And it will not be a sales-oriented thing."

• • • • •

Rundgren, 47, grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia. After flirtations with garage bands and regional acts, he became the central figure in the Beatles-esque group, the Nazz. At 21, he signed with Warner Brothers as a solo artist. His initial project saw the then budding virtuoso sing, overlay instruments and engineer. The resulting LP, *Runt,* sold more than 100,000 copies, a fair showing. Word circulated within the music biz

Internet Music Man
He even gives himself a special moniker on his latest CDs: TR-i, for Todd Rundgren Interactive

of his multifaceted musical and technical aplomb. The *wunderkind* engineered seminal albums by The Band. Rundgren reached his commercial zenith when he produced Meatloaf's 1977 smash *Bat Out of Hell.* He used the financial windfall to build his own $2 million video production facility.

Along the way, Rundgren made a few classic albums of his own. The 1972 double album-set titled *Something/ Anything?* produced and performed by Rundgren alone is considered a classic. In '74, he formed the progressive power-pop group Utopia, foreshadowing the "new wave" scene that would happen a half-decade later.

Rundgren's resumé of technological firsts is impressive. In 1978, he performed both the first interactive television concert and the first live radio broadcast nationally by microwave, linking 40 cities around the country. The following year, he opened Utopia Video Studios. His first project, Gustav Holt's *The Planets*, was commissioned by RCA as the first demonstration software for its then-spanking new video-disc format.

In 1980, Rundgren directed and produced *Time Heals,* the first video to combine live action and computer graphics. It became the second clip to be played on MTV. In 1981, he developed the first digital paint program for PCs, which he licensed to Apple. In '82, he performed the first live national cablecast of a rock concert via the USA Network. With his forays into interactivity, Rundgren looks to be a pivotal figure in how music is created and perceived in the not-too-distant future. He wants to help restore what he calls the "plasticity" of music. Before the onset of recording, he says, people sang drinking songs in pubs and would add new verses based on the events of the day.

He thinks some of pop music's pliant nature can be reintroduced via more sophisticated means. In an interview last year, he described a scenario whereby he could get up in the morning, work on a musical idea and upload it onto the 'net. If the next day he wanted to add a solo or change a troublesome note, he could tweak the music and upload again. "There are a number of ways to look at that issue," he says. "Do you allow people the window into the working process or do you deliver the finished product? Do you open lines for feedback? As an artist, I want the option to do it, although I don't necessarily have the proclivity to do it." He doesn't see the method being embraced by the pop community at large.

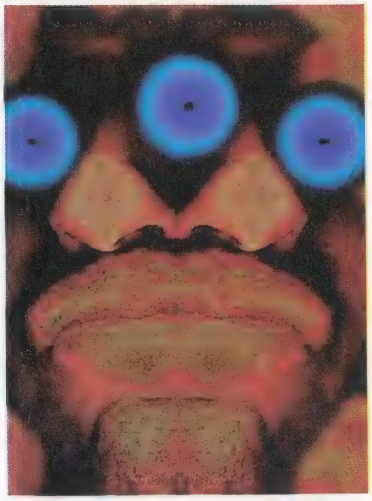
"So many artists are concerned with creating an image of themselves, an image which is not necessarily accurate," he says. "They don't want their music deconstructed so people can find out truly about the artist. The ones who will be most uptight about having their music recontexturalized and examined are the ones with a basic self-consciousness about it. They might be found out. Perhaps their work is sloppy, or an obvious reflection of their influences; perhaps they're completely incapable of performing this under circumstances other than the recording studio."

One area where the interactive poster boy finds little interactivity is in the arena of pop concerts. Such a notion flies in the face of those technologically wary folk who view live performance as perhaps a last bastion of true artistic give-and-take.

"Despite what you might hear otherwise, when acts go on the road, the specific objective is to go out and play the same set every night," he contends. "How long the guitar solo is is the only interactivity with most acts. Very few bands that I have seen would qualify as being interactive. Frank Zappa rehearsed his bands so thoroughly that, through a whole language of cues, he could jump from the chorus of one song to the vamp of another song on a dime."

His attitude is decidedly different. "When I took my band out last summer, we tried to keep some kind of interactive dynamic. There was no song list. We never knew what song we were going to do until the last one was finished. I demanded that in order to keep everyone on their toes. So we rarely, if ever, played the same sequence of songs. It's not monumental in terms of interactivity, but at least it kept it interesting for me.

"It sure beats doing 50 shows glancing down at the same tattered set list. That was like the commute home. You've seen it all before, you zone out and endure it. Live performance outside of jazz is pretty much a rote experience. It's merely a re-telling and it seems essentially pointless." All told, Rundgren is an artist who holds himself to the highest standard of self-expression, who genuinely refuses to compromise his muse, whether it's playing guitar in front of a crowd, working at his computer for hours, or attempting to rap for the first time, as he did on *No World Order.* It takes courage. This most verbose of men finally sums up his philosophy in one pointed sentence: "Art to me is a public act of self-examination."



SCANNER ABUSE ART (TOP & BOTTOM) AND WILLIAM CARR'S "MINDBREAKER" (MIDDLE).

The Birdhouse

There are probably safer ways of expressing oneself, but the scanner abuse page at **The Birdhouse (http://custwww.xensei.com/users/shacker/)** is a hell of a lot of fun. Webmaster Scot Hacker, 31, explains the procedure: "Stick your face on the bed of a scanner. Put a coat over your head to block out some of the ambient light. Shut your eyes tight, or risk being permanently sight-damaged by forms of modern radiation we don't yet well understand. Reach out and grope for the keyboard. Hit enter... When the light is at its brightest, move your face around to create smeary patterns." Sure it sounds dangerous, but it's art, man!

Working out of his apartment in Brighton, Mass., site coordinator Hacker (who also works as an editor for Ziff-Davis' interactive division), initiated the Birdhouse as an uncensored venue for both his own and his friends' creative projects. The "loose-knit collective" is separated out into five categories that showcase essays, poetry, short fiction, photography, digital art, collages, Java applications, QuickTime movies and other indescribable bric-a-brac. Anyone is welcome to riffle through the gallery of art, and creators who wish to have their works published on the site are encouraged to apply.

"Although, I don't want to take on this 'everybody's an artist' mentality, because I don't think that's true," stipulates Hacker, whose Birdhouse is fast becoming overcrowded. Editorial standards are important to many in the collective, who worry that an "open" policy might compromise the standards set by the original coterie of artists. And yes, refused applicants' feathers sometimes get ruffled. "Turning down things is very difficult," says Hacker, who holds the thankless job of e-mailing out rejections. "I got submissions from a 10-year-old kid the other day. And they were these little drawings he had done in Windows Paint Brush or something. They were cute... and I didn't know what to say. It was really difficult."

Scot Hacker, 31, is lord over what flies in the Web art collective, The Birdhouse

What does qualify a work as worthy of joining the collective? It has to be "funky," says Hacker. It's a vague requisite, and so he points to several examples of what flies in the Birdhouse: St. Martin's Press youth-culture commentator, Pagan Kennedy, posts excerpts from her works-in-progress, including an amusing "Glossary of Terms for Maturing Hipsters"; artist William Carr hangs sample works of his "75-piece on Freudian duality;" and "esteemed comrade" Enzo23 recently posted an exclusive interview with author and philosopher, Hakim Bey.

The site's most prize-worthy work by *IU* standards, however, was posted by Hacker himself. "Bands that Never Existed" is a page of three simultaneously running Java ticker tape applications that scroll hysterically pretentious, or plain goofy names of unrealized rock groups, e.g., Smurf Killer, Cream Squash, After Bingo, The Reagan Years, Carbon Dated Lung Cookies and our favorite, Extinction by Default.

Speaking of strange names, what of "The Birdhouse?" "It just came to me one summer night while walking the streets of Cambridge," says Hacker who admits there was no real rhyme or reason to it. "Something just clicked."

A closer look at this month's #1 site

SPOTLIGHT

Visit underground online, the webbed companion to Internet Underground.

Stories you won't see in the print version.

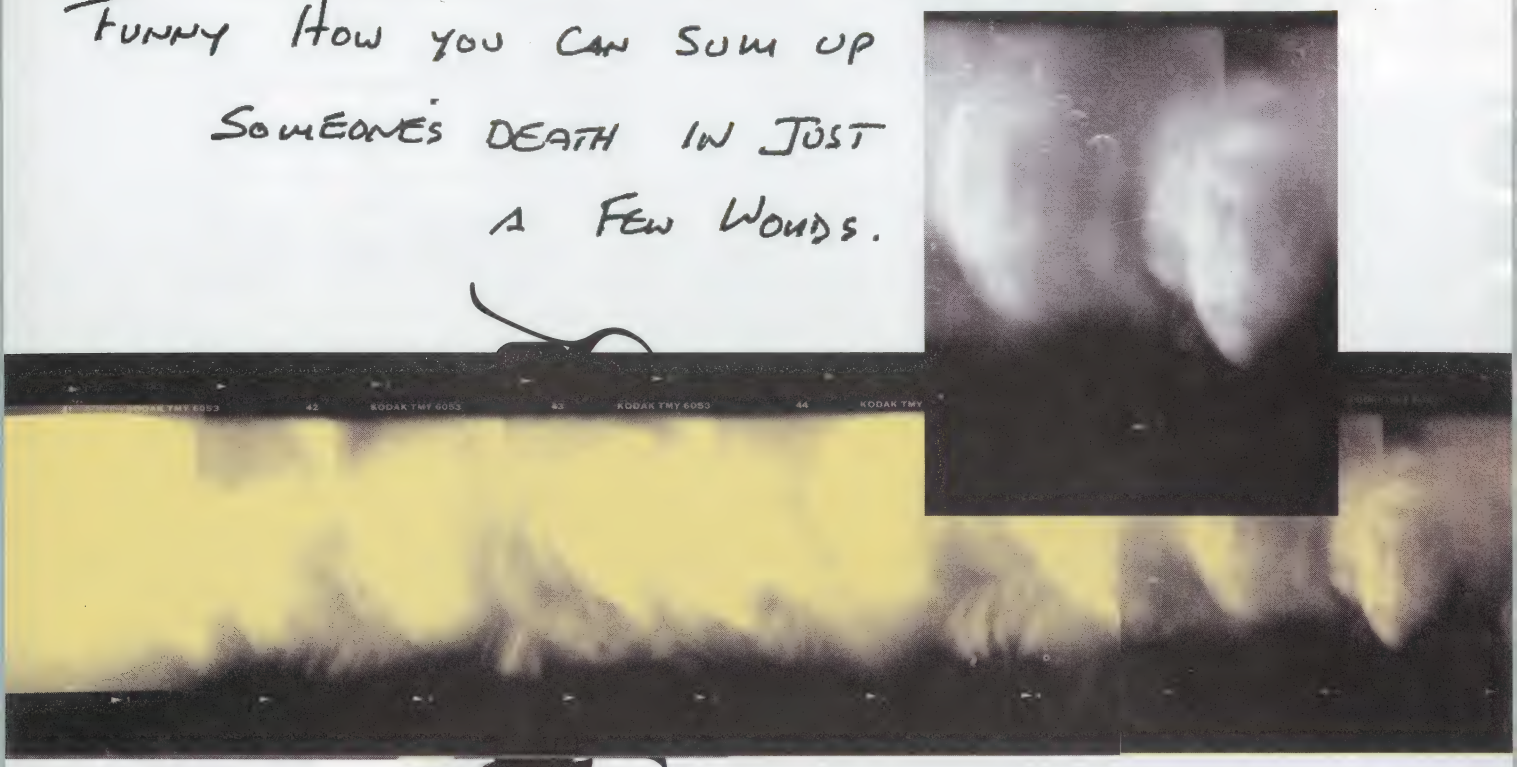
Music from independent bands.

Software downloads.

Links to hundreds of reviewed Web sites.

http://www.underground-online.com

SHE WAS JUST ANOTHER PEDESTRIAN WHO GOT IN THE WAY OF A LEAD-FOOTED MOTORIST. FUNNY HOW YOU CAN SUM UP SOMEONE'S DEATH IN JUST A FEW WORDS.



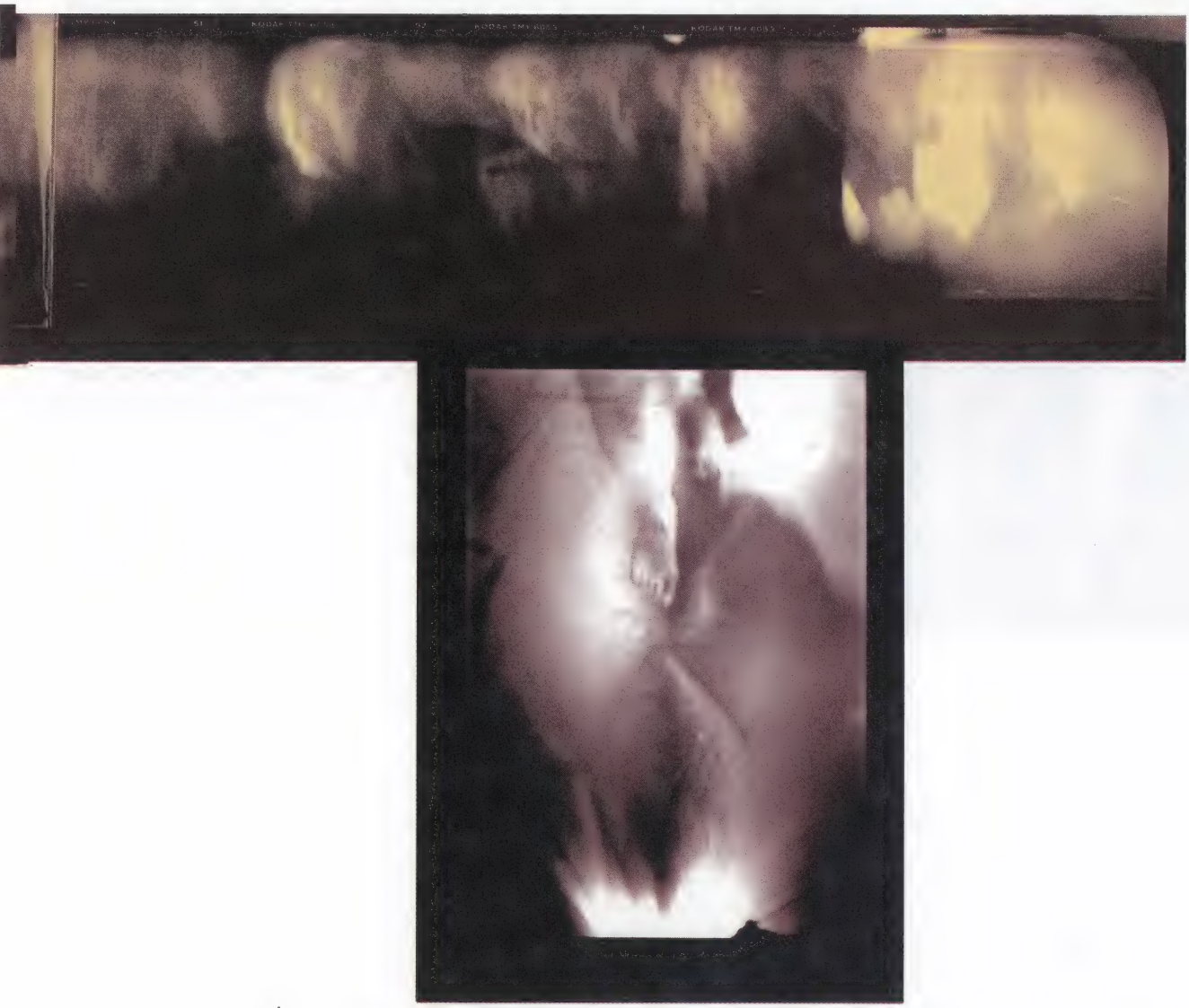
Goodbye Page

images by Sharon Marson

Digital Immortality

With the worlds of reality and cyberspace seemingly mired in pointless discussion, obnoxious advocacy and mindless self-absorption, the Goodbye Page is a singular act of human compassion.

text by David Allen



My mother's death came unbidden & unwelcome to me shortly after midnight on the first of December. A Sheriff's deputy came to my door, and all the priorities of my life changed in ten seconds.

Do you remember when you were in school and you learned a new vocabulary word? From that point forward, you seemed to hear everybody using that word. Actually, people had been using the word the whole time, but you, not understanding it, had "tuned" it out. Once you understood the word, you became "aware" of it, and everywhere you turned, you heard someone using it.

Personal tragedy is the same way. You wander through life knowing that people die, yet not actually being affected by it, until one day it intrudes directly into your life. The rest of the world fades to insignificance as you struggle to make sense of ugly reality. Death is something that happens to other people, but now *you* are other people. Suddenly, you see death everywhere, happening to people who you no longer view as strangers. How can they be strangers when you know exactly how they feel?

In its way, death breaks us out of our isolated shells and makes us members of the human race again. It makes us feel not just our own grief, but the grief of humanity, the sad emptiness of loss and the gnawing pain of dreams faded.

After spending an entire week off-line, I returned to cyberspace a distracted and depressed individual. The hardest thing to deal with is the simple things. When you are online, you spend a lot of time talking to people of casual acquaintance and if you are like me, you are reluctant to speak of such weighty matters. A simple "So, how are things?" threw me into a quandary as to how to respond. I could brush it off with an equally breezy, "Oh, fine," but this seemed to dishonor the dead. I was lying. Things were not "fine," they were anything but. My world was requiring the exertion of considerable effort to be held together.

Yet, to discuss such deep sense of loss with a relative stranger was to trivialize it. Worse, to drop this in someone's lap without warning, just because they were silly enough to ask a typically inconsequential question seemed to me to unfairly burden them.

photo courtesy Michele Hendrix

Of course, all this second guessing and intense introspection can drive you rather quickly to a bad Valium habit.

This was the state of mind I was in when I stumbled across Scott Schumacher and his **Goodbye Page at http://soli.inav.net/~spankee/goodbye.html**. I had not set out to find him, I had simply been perusing the postings in the alt.support.grief group on Usenet, trying to decide if I wanted to actually post something. Would it help, or was I just picking at the wound?

Scott Schumacher works at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he works with recovering stroke victims and the terminally ill. Death is something he deals with daily and not just with those in his charge. Scott has lost a brother and a sister, as well as three close friends his own age. Having a hard time dealing with one death, my mind comes close to shutdown trying to contemplate Scott's life.

Yet, rather than let himself be crippled by it, Scott has become deeply interested in helping people deal with grief.

"I wanted to turn my personal losses to something useful," Schumacher explains. "Even in death, we can learn from people, about how they lived and how they loved. It is the sharing of the stories of people's lives which is the last gift they leave for the living. If we but remember them, they never really cease to exist."

After losing an online friend, Scott searched for a way to express his grief to help others who knew the person express their grief as well. His solution was The Goodbye Page, a virtual forum where people can write a letter or tell a story about those they have lost.

"The most important part of the healing process is to have a sense of closure. Without that, people can never really get over the loss. This is especially true for unexpected deaths, since it leaves behind many unresolved issues," Schumacher says.

How true. Many are the sleepless nights where ill-considered or angry words have come back to mock me, words I can no longer erase with an apology.

Scott created The Goodbye Page to give people a place to help them let go. "I wanted to create a place where people could say all the things they wanted to say, but didn't get a chance. The page is a place where I hope people can finally let go. They can write a letter to the person they have lost and tell them how much they miss them, how angry they are at them, or anything else they feel important. I don't edit or censor what anybody wants to say."

Words to the dead, so that we may rejoin the world of the living. But do the dead hear? Do they understand? Do they smile? Do they forgive?

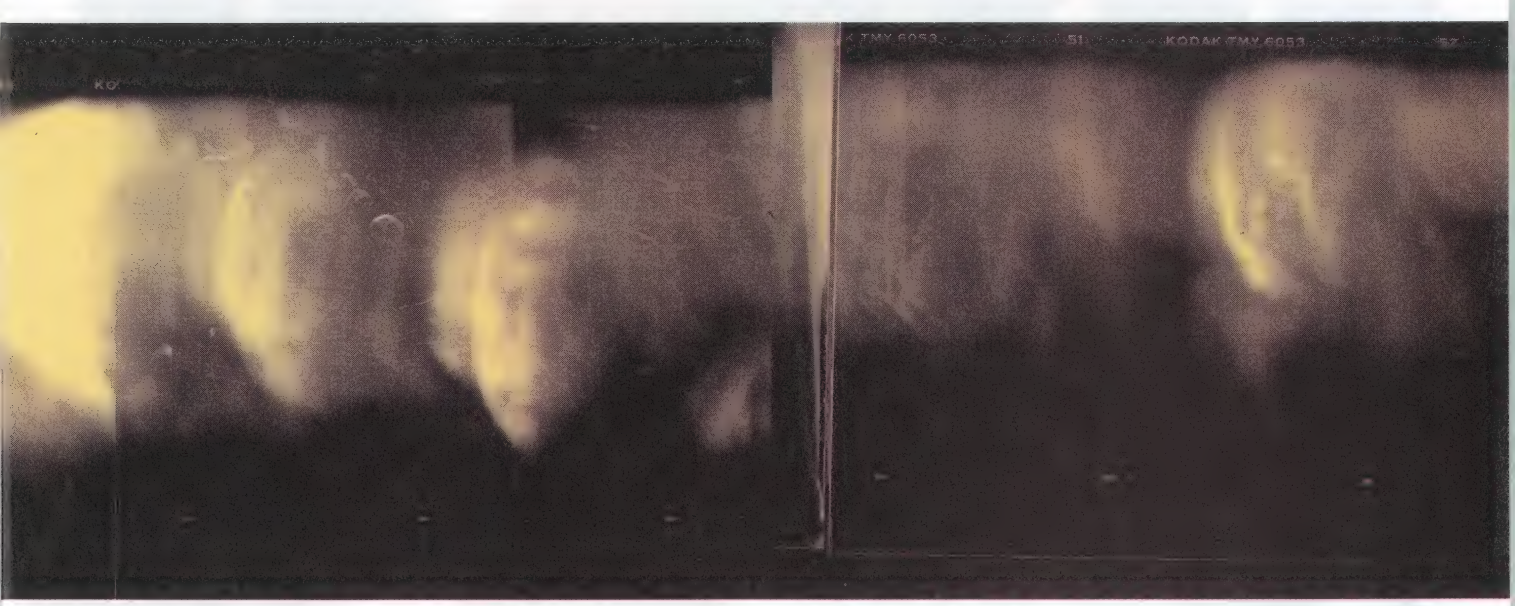
"I think they do," Scott said. "It's a personal view, but I think they do."

To help this end, Scott plans to convert the letters posted on the page to an FM radio signal, and beam them into space, to share these life stories with the universe. And perhaps, just perhaps, send them on to the ears that need to hear them.

"I hope to have the transmitter up and running by March," Scott told me in February. "I have a friend who is a Ham radio buff, and he is helping with the project."

In the meantime, traffic on The Goodbye Page has been slow, but steady. Since he posted a notice about the page to alt.support.grief, he has averaged a post every other day.

"Resources to help people deal with grief are pretty scarce on the 'net," Scott sighs. "But I hope to rectify that. There is my page, a Virtual Memorial page in England, (alt.support.grief), and a site here and there, and that's about it. As I get a little more time and money, I plan on expanding these resources, perhaps putting my own computer on the 'net to help people out. I want to be part of the healing."



So, I am faced with the question: "Will I place a letter on the Goodbye Page?"

Yes, in time. It will take much effort to summon the words to erase the pain and guilt, harder still to recall the words which celebrate the joyous times, times more painful now in the recollection. I will post, because by so doing, I will imbue my mother with a digital immortality. With each person who reads The Goodbye Page, her story will cross a global network of resonating electrons, forever altering the quantum state of the universe by doing so.

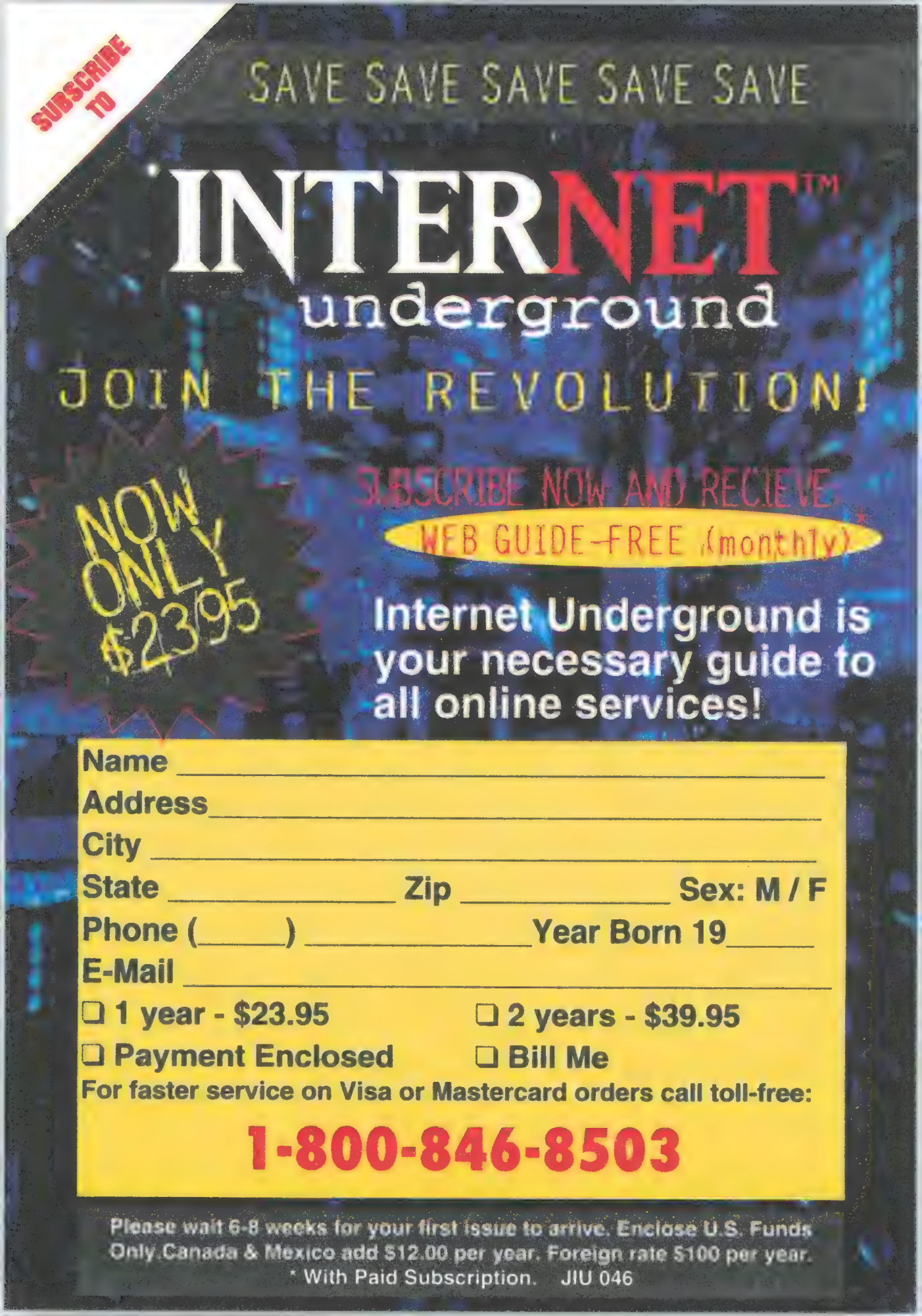
Mom would have loved it, as she always loved creating a fuss.

THE KOOK CURATOR

by Kathleen Flinn

The Kooks Museum
http://www.teleport.com/~dkossy/index.html

Their ideas sound crazy, but someone in Donna Kossy's Kook Museum might just save the earth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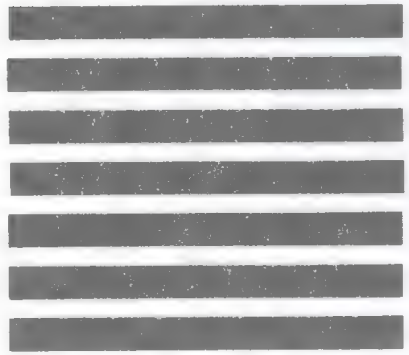

INTERNET UNDERGROUND
P.O. BOX 1502
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photos: Tim Jewett/Blackstar

DONNA KOSSY IN THE
UFO MUSEUM IN PORTLAND

Donna Kossy was just minding her own business, walking along the streets of San Francisco, when some guy handed her a flier. In a way, it changed her whole life.

"The gist was that people were supposed to send him women through the mail somehow," Kossy says. "Leading up to that was all this stuff about how all the males in the world, especially in Berkeley, had gone wrong. It was sort of a doomsday thing. It started 'I'm Andy, I chain smoke Camels and drink Yuban Instant straight out of the bottle.' "

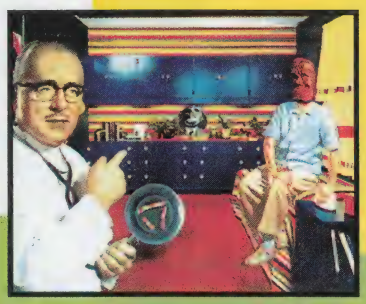
Such literature can't be dismissed, so Kossy later incorporated the flier into a 'zine she put together, *False Positive*. The section became so popular that Kossy found herself inundated with fliers or tips on kooks. Without ever having planned it, Kossy soon filled a void seemingly desperately empty.

"It's almost like people were looking for someone to fill this

role," says Kossy, a former computer programmer who now lives in Portland, Ore. She started collecting fliers, people's stories about kooks and even researched the great kooks of history. For several years, she compiled all of these findings into her magazine, *Kooks*. Never widely distributed, Kossy circulated perhaps 450 to 700 copies of the magazine through record stores, used book shops and other small venues in the Boston area. Sample editorial offerings included "The End of the World Bibliography," "Close Encounters of the Disturbed Kind" and some kook's word-for-word essay titled "SHC vs. Life Force Fields." She reviewed books by kooks, such as one fellow's literary account that certain world leaders, such as Leonard Breshnev, were secret throwbacks to the apes. (He illustrated his works profusely, attaching tails to the leaders' back sides.) In 1994, Kossy compiled the lot into the book *Kooks: A Guide to the Outer Limits of Human Belief.* Now material from the magazines, the books and her most recent kook sightings in cyberspace are documented in her rather large Web site, The Kooks Museum at **http://www. teleport.com/~dkossy/** On her site, Kossy collects her subjects by room and category, such as the Library of Questionable Scholarship, the Solutions to the World Problems Exhibit or the Schizophrenic Wing.

"The whole turn of events was a strange one for me because I never really thought that I wanted to be a writer," Kossy says. But somehow, it developed into her life's work. She's now even at work on a second book, *Aberrant Anthropology,* a collection of some of the more bizarre ideas about the cradle of human existence. All of this came from her attempt to try to put each kook in a place, to make sense of all the nonsense.

"At first, it seemed like all these wacky ideas, like certain conspiracy theories, were unique or isolated. But then it turned out that the same ideas would recur. They were trading ideas and reading each other's stuff, these kooks. So it was sort of interesting, to see some development in the kook community."



The most amazing evolution in the world of kooks has definitely been the advent of the Web.

"It has kind of revolutionized Kookdom," Kossy says. "For a lot of these groups, I used to be one of the only people who knew about them." Now they are on the Web, with possibly millions reading their odd ideas. Most are so extreme that it's likely the bulk of Web users will simply dismiss their notions. But how many might think, "Huh. Maybe there's something to this?" Ideas can be dangerous, after all.

In the past, some kooks were able to find small, dedicated audiences for their notions. Typically, these were called *cults.*

Take for example, Cyrus Teed. A hundred years ago, he started spreading the word that we were all actually living on the *inside* of the planet, at its core. As dubious as this might sound, he persuaded hundreds to follow him, eventually setting up a community in Florida that existed for about 20 years. His ideas might seem crazy to most people, but clearly not to others.

That may be why Kossy says "Having more and more access to everything can be a good thing, but not necessarily."

On the street, if some unshaven, hygienically challenged guy in flowing gray robes hands you a flier, then it's not hard to figure out that, well, perchance he's a kook. On the Web, you don't have appearances to consider, only graphics and words. And sometimes, slick graphics can lend questionable concepts a greater sense of credibility. You might think, "Hey, this guy can really use Netscape extensions. Maybe he's not so crazy. Maybe aliens *did* implant something into his brain."

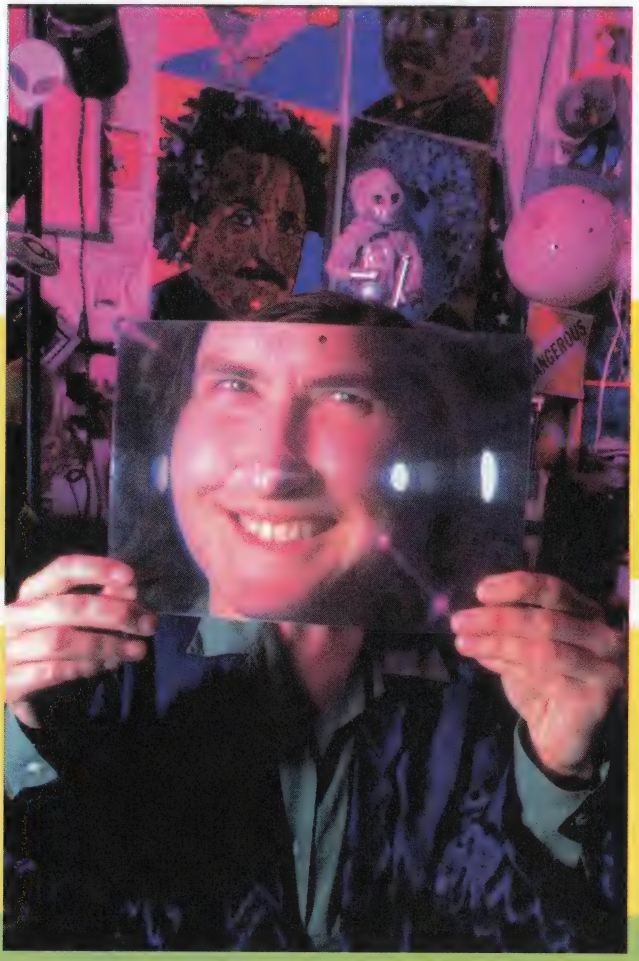
Some of Kossy's kooks were formerly institutionalized. She theorizes that perhaps one reason more pamphlets about apocalypse or thought police circulate now may be due to the mental health "reforms" of the 1960s that released thousands of mental health patients to the streets.

"There are people who aren't crazy or never were institutionalized. Some may even seem completely normal. But it seems like right now there is an awful lot of these ideas are getting more press than they did 10 or 15 years ago." Kossy blames political and economic insecurity. "Whenever people are having bad times, they want answers. Sort of simplistic answers, even if they don't make sense."

THE WORD ON KOOK

The phrase "kook," according to Kossy, derives from surfer slang coined by veterans to describe newbies desperately lacking surfing abilities. The surfers possibly based the phrase the Hawaiian word "kukai," loosely translated to "shit."

Beatniks, who lifted other bits of jargon from the surf community, adopted the phrase in the 1950s. The Beats, however, may have thought the term was short for "cuckoo," she notes. Being strange alone does not necessarily make one a kook. Kossy separates her kooks away from simple garden-variety hoaxers, quacks, cons, frauds and seminal psychotics. Someone who makes crazy claims to make a profit



"I'M SURPRISINGLY NORMAL," KOSSY SAYS, REFLECTING ON HER INTERESTS IN KOOKS.

isn't a kook; he's a businessman. A serial killer may be a couple burritos short of a combination plate, but he's not necessarily a kook, either.

No, to qualify for the title your rants must be extreme, outlandish and more importantly, you must earnestly believe it.

"Being assigned kook status is inherently a matter of perspective, relative to history and culture. A kook of the 19th century might become a scientific hero in the 20th," Kossy notes.

Take the example of geologist Alfred Wegener (1880-1930), who hypothesized the continental drift. In his day, Wegener's theory was dismissed as a "fairy tale," Kossy says. But today, the theory of plate tectonics is widely accepted by the same scientific community that mocked him years ago.

Along the same lines, those who first speculated that eating meat and smoking cigarettes might cause health concerns were ridiculed by the general medical community.

Of course, the lens of time can work the other way, too. Phrenologists, the belief that one's character can be determined by the shape of one's skull, was as widely accepted in the 19th century as psychology is today. Now, phrenology has been rejected as pure speculation and quackery, Kossy says.

Few in Kossy's museum seem likely ever qualify for such latter-day accolades. One fellow thinks that the "thought police" tried to frame him for a major New York City blackout. She outlines the MIT Archive of Useless Research, a collective body of scientific data that paints Darwin as a pirate and proposes that the standard economic law of supply and demand is actually a fake.

Then there's her favorite loon, Alfred W. Lawson, whom Kossy dubs "the Leonardo da Vinci of kooks."

Lawson started out life as a baseball player, then went into aviation. At age 40, he started publishing books on "Lawsonomy," in which he made claims such as "Thank God for Alfred Lawson!" He developed his own theories of biology and physics that hinged on the ideas of suction, pressure and something called "zig-zag-and-swirl."

"Then he bought the University of Des Moines and started something called the University of Lawsonomy. They tried to give the impression that it was a regular university. Now that's an example of a kook going far with his ideas. But what's more odd is that there are still Lawsonimists around."

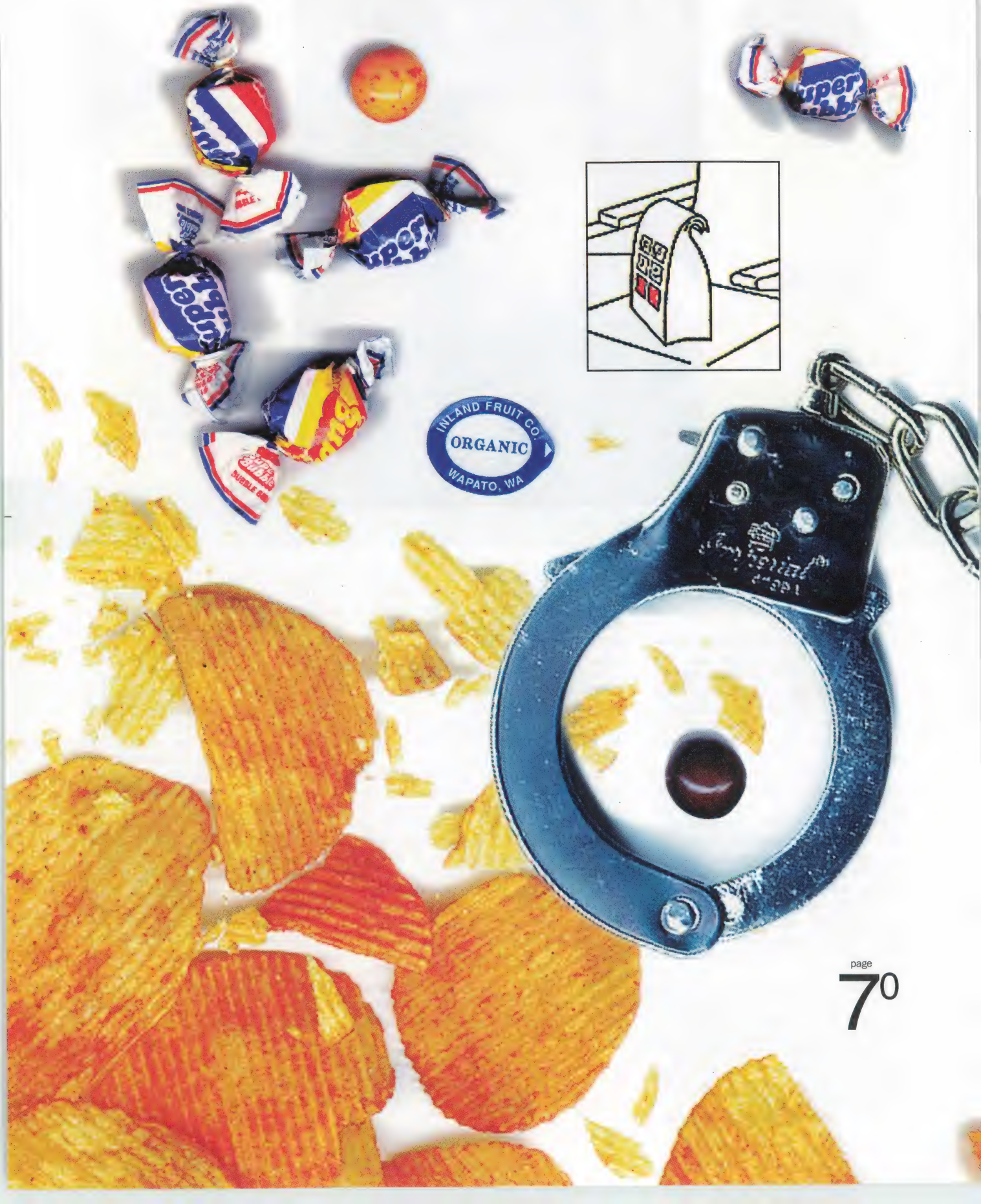
That Lawson, an inventor with a false sense of grandeur was able to start an egocentric philosophy doesn't surprise her, but rather how many he could convince to join in, based on the power of his ability to transfer his ideas. He was able to do it the same way many kooks can, through the understanding that the standards of thought are continually shifting.

"What's surprised me most is how I've learned that ideas are so flimsy. Any ideas, even mainstream ideas in science, are in flux all the time," Kossy says. "People talk about paradigm changes, but to me it seems like all that can happen in an instant. Fifty years ago the main paradigm was extremely racist. Now when people bring up those kinds of ideas, considered standard 50 years ago, they may be considered kooks."

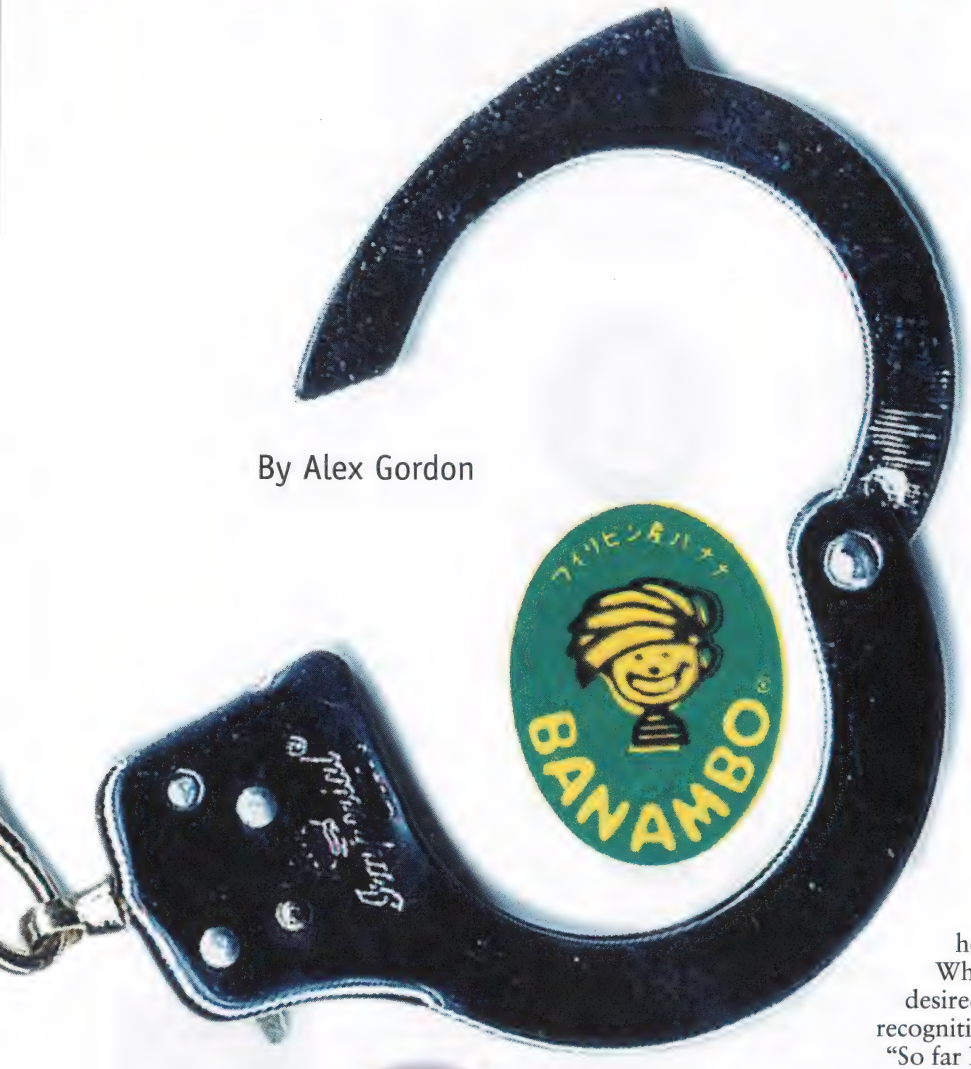
Some timeless kooks, however, never fit a standard. It has never really been widely believed that the government tracks people through their teeth, for example. But some kooks, especially the conspiracy kooks, can assemble what sound like pretty good arguments.

"There's always that one moment when I think, 'He might be right. What if he is?' It's not impossible. In the end, the person who comes along and says something unbelievable is either crazy or he's right."

Hobbyisttp://www.



Unusual.Compilers



Beyond baseball cards and coins lurk some of the Web's *most bizarre* collections

By Alex Gordon

Bjørn Christian Tørrissen gets sick every time he sees someone on an airplane throwing up. It's not because he's queasy. Rather Tørrissen gets sick from watching someone ruin a perfectly good collectible.

Tørrissen has a most unusual hobby: He collects airsickness bags. Rather than toil in relative obscurity, though, Tørrissen has posted his acquisitions for public consumption at http://www. pvv.unit.no/~bct/spypose/.

Tørrissen isn't the only one with a somewhat odd collection of items on the Web. In the dark recesses between the more legitimate sites detailing baseball card and coin collecting, you'll find Joy Collier and her chewing gum, Gary Beason and his BBQ Potato Chips, Ilkka Havukkala and his banana labels and Yossie Silverman and his impressive array of handcuffs.

All of them went on the Web hoping to expand their collections. While most have not achieved the desired results, they've all received some recognition and met up with kindred souls.

"So far I have had only two airsickness bags sent to me from nice people on the 'net. I'm not sure there are more than two nice people on the 'net," says Tørrissen, a 23-year-old computer science student. "But I can reveal that there does exist a mailing list for airsickness bag collectors, and there are 12 of us on the 'net, living out our dark side, leading normal lives on the side."

Tørrissen, who resides in Trondheim, Norway, says he started collecting bags during a time when he was taking a lot of flights. "I happened to sit next to this guy who was really not having a good time, as the turbulence was pretty bad on one of these flights. As his skin color turned less human, I watched in fascination as he grabbed one of these bags I had never really noticed before, and... umm... I guess it suffices to say, he 'used' it. I picked up an empty one, and thought about how much difference a bag like that made to my situation, there and then. Ever since, I've been hooked."

His site relies more on novelty than technical prowess, something

Tørrissen says he did on purpose "to prove to myself and others that you can get a lot of hits on your pages, even without putting a lifetime of work into it." In addition to making *IU*'s Weird on the Web (Issue #2), the site has garnered a variety of awards.

"I really enjoy lengthy e-mails from people giving me anecdotes and stories about their feelings for these handy devices. I am still waiting for the woman of my dreams to appear as a result of the bags. You have to admit that 'If you come home with me, I'll show you my airsickness bag collection' is a killer pickup line."

Mr. Chips

Eating 60 bags of BBQ potato chips might make you want to spew. But 60-plus bags is the price paid for the collection of Gary Beason, a 32-year-old technical writer. Beason, known online as "Bubba," started his collection (he eats the chips and saves the bags) while working at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. Missing the simple pleasure of a Texas barbecue, Beason sublimated the experience through BBQ chips, making it a mission to find the world's best version.

Beason, who says he is not a potato aficionado, first put the collection on the Web at http://sage.cc.purdue.edu/~bubba/bbqchips.htm in 1994 to organize his record keeping. While plenty of people e-mail him tips about good chips, no one has mailed him any actual chips, much to Beason's dismay. He says he has received mild forms of recognition. He has been called a "Spud God" and was used as a source for a high school term paper.

What makes a good BBQ chip? "I know it when I eat it... It has a lot to do with the chip. BBQ seasoning is pretty much the same everywhere. The seasoning has to make it kind of hot but with a good taste. Most chips, though, just don't have a good potato taste." He rates chips on a scale of how many meals one would ruin by snacking on them. So far, Bob's and Zapp's have received Beason's highest rating, 4 ½ ruined meals.

Along with his continuing quest for the perfect chip, Beason hopes to someday soon scan in his bags so he can truly share the breadth of his collection with his audience.

Bananarama

While Beason's bags wait, Ilkka Havukkala's scanner has been working overtime. Havukkala, a 42-year-old Finnish scientist working in Japan, is the Web's most pronounced collector of banana labels, those stickers on the peels advertising Dole and Chiquita, and as it turns out, a host of other lesser-known brands. His site at http://www.staff.or.jp/whoiswho/ilkka/bananadir/bananalabels.html boasts GIFs of over 200 different labels—including 39 varieties of the Chiquita label.

"You have to admit that 'If you come home with me, I'll show you my airsickness bag collection' is a killer pickup line"

-Barf Bag Collector
Bjørn Christian Tørrissen

Havukkala says he started collecting banana labels as a child, while his schoolmates collected stamps. He decided to put his collection online "to share information that was unique and not available otherwise and to get in touch with other collectors." It's worked. Havukkala says he's received lots of stickers in the mail to add to his collection, plus he now communicates with an entire network of sticker collectors including people who collect labels from other fruits.

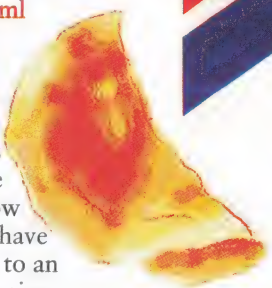
Without the worldwide connections he made through the Web, Havukkala's collection may have stagnated considering he has spent the last six years in Tsukuba Science City, just outside of Tokyo, working on a bioinformatic project for a rice genome research program. Havukkala's collection is renown in the produce label-collecting community. As a result, he's even been "asked to participate in evaluating banana museum architectural design competition entries."

Chew on this

Joy Collier, another food-related collector, has a far more difficult task than Beason and Havukkala. While they can consume the edible portions of their collections, the 41-year-old computer consultant has to worry about moisture and the elements destroying the fruits of her labor—a collection of more than 500 packages of bubble and chewing gum.

Collier's collection began with an amazing coincidence. About 10 years ago, she got her then husband some Hot Dawg bubble gum packaged in a little house as a stocking stuffer. On Christmas morning, she was delighted to find that her husband had purchased her the same gum. Not much of a gum lover (she says he rarely if ever chews it), Collier was intrigued by the variety of unusual gums on the market, such as pizza- and taco-shaped gum.

Like other collectors, Collier started her Web site at http://www.pacifier.com/~joyco/gum.html in hopes that she'd find other gum collectors. Thus far, despite loads of positive e-mail, Collier has been contacted by only one other collector. "I'm amazed that all the e-mail has been complimentary, because, let's face it, this is a mockable thing." While she may not have tapped into a current of gum collectors, she now receives gum tips from correspondents who have spotted new varieties. The best hint led Collier to an Asian market in Portland, Ore., just across the river from her Vancouver, Wash. home. There she scored 12 new varieties of gum.

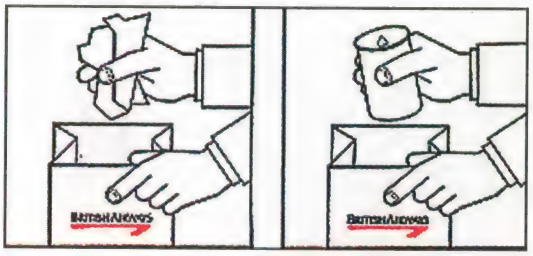


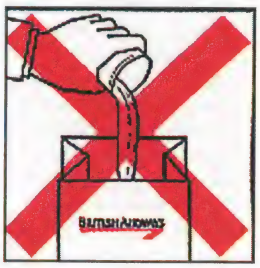
At first Collier collected only unusual bubble gums, but she recently expanded her collection to include all types of chewing gum, from Bubble Fries to Juicy Fruit. Despite the notoriety of her site, one brand has remained elusive, Gold Rush, a burlap bag filled with gold nuggets of gum. Though she recently found the gum's '90s equivalent, Bag O' Gold, Collier is holding out hope that someday soon she'll find the original gold. Perhaps even at the end of the Rainblo?

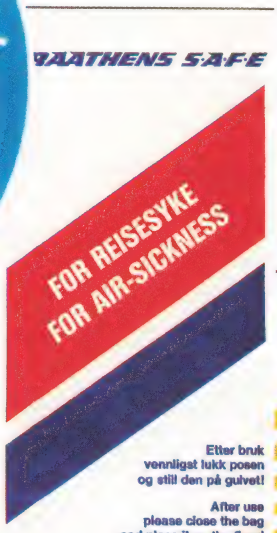
The Right Cuff

As a child, Yossie Silverman was fascinated by escape artists such as Houdini. But rather than lock himself in boxes, he chose to collect handcuffs. With an assortment of more than 90 pairs, it seemed logical to Silverman to share his cuffs with the world by setting up a Web exhibit at http://www.blacksteel.com/~yossie/hcs.html.

"Why not?" Silverman asks matter-of-factly. "It was easy and the response has been amazing." The 33-year-old computer programmer says he's received messages from other collectors relieved to find that there were others who shared this unusual hobby. He's also been approached by manufacturers offering him discounts, X-ray technicians who wanted to examine the cuffs' internal locks and old friends with whom he had lost touch.







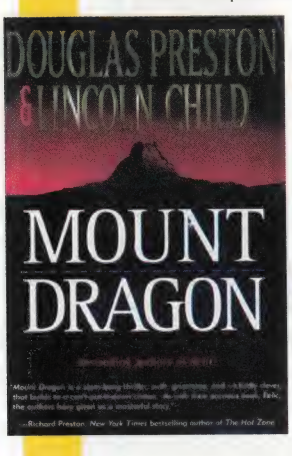
"It's just fascinating how many people are interested in the cuffs," says Silverman. "Look at contemporary movies and TV shows and check out how many times you see cuffs and shackles being used. Also, have you noticed that whenever a camera takes a picture of a convict or suspect, it always zooms in on their cuffed hands." The average cuffs in Silverman's collection cost between $75 to $100, but he says he's seen pairs priced as high as $2,000. "They're hard to value. They're worth as much as someone wants to pay for them," he says.

At the site, each pair on display is accompanied by expert commentary explaining how the cuffs work and their use. Silverman admits to having first-hand knowledge of the cuffs' inner-workings—he's even lost keys requiring lock-picking or alternative solutions such as sawing them off.

Just as art museums borrow paintings from other galleries for exhibits, Silverman has photos from other collectors available at his site. "There are probably hundreds of patents for cuffs on file. I once scanned British patent records and found two to three patents a year dealing with cuffs, from the 1850s through the 1940s... major patents in this country start appearing along the same time period."

For budding handcuff collectors, Silverman set up a page of manufacturers and resources. From there, you can connect to a number of handcuff sites. In other words, yes, there *is* a page of "cuff links."

Reviews



★★★½

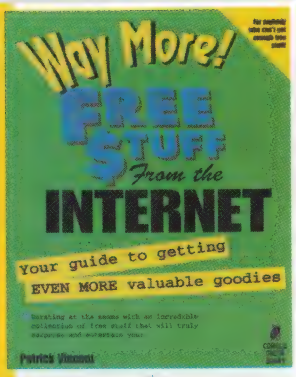
MOUNT DRAGON
BY DOUGLAS PRESTON AND LINCOLN CHILD
FORGE
$22.95

No form of literature defines the fears of our society more than the medical thriller. If we were able to introduce all the diseases that novelists have concocted over the past few years, it would make AIDS look like a walk in the park. In *Mount Dragon*, Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child introduce X-FLU, a rogue virus created by scientists in the course of attempting to isolate and eradicate the gene that causes influenza. It's being researched in a secret bunker in the New Mexico desert underneath Mount Dragon, and our hero Guy Carson is hired to help find this cure. Soon, it becomes apparent that this project is being undertaken out of simple greed.

The novel is separated into three parts, and in the first two parts it holds interest. There's something inherently terrifying about the consequences of genetic engineering. With the seemingly geometric acceleration of computer technology, the most prevalent fear seems to be that we'll just become automatons. Preston and Child play up this fear to the hilt, showing the development of the virus and discussing plenty of juicy ethical dilemmas. Carson begins the project excited about the scientific accomplishments but his doubts about the safety of harboring a brain-exploding virus grow as the novel progresses.

The novel, however, gets bogged down in the third part, when the science is set aside for a simple chase through the desert and yet another side trip into virtual reality. It wouldn't be so bad except that it takes up 120 pages, halfway through which the reader discovers the whole point of the chase is to create a romantic situation for Carson and his assistant, Susana. Perhaps Preston and Child thought it best to move the action out of the bunker, but what interests the readers of medical thrillers is the medicine. If they wanted a chase, they could go to the movies.

—Rob Kozlowski



★★½

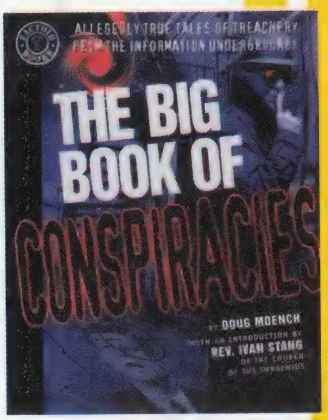
WAY MORE! FREE $TUFF FROM THE INTERNET
BY PATRICK VINCENT
FREE $TUFF FOR SCIENCE BUFFS
BY BARRY YOUNG
CORIOLIS GROUP BOOKS
$19.99

Further installments in the "Free $tuff" series make us question the entire concept of "free." Sure, I can see a Van Gogh "for free" online, but that doesn't stun me. Fine art usually *is* available for free, as is literature in the public domain at the library, child safety tips from public agencies and information on drug addiction. The whole point of the Internet is to share the wealth of information and educate the public.

I did appreciate the freeware and shareware listings, as they offered a tangible return and made me feel I'd really gotten something for "free." The software was listed by category (Family Finance, Games, Internet Resources, etc.) which made it easier to find a suitable program than stumbling about an FTP site. Also, the programs were reviewed and explained. In fact, many elements of getting online were explained in the introduction in a goofy, simplistic voice that will annoy you if you're wired but may comfort you if you're just about to take the plunge.

Overall, this is a fine book if you just forget about getting stuff *gratis*. Almost everything on the 'net is free. The word is just a lure to convince you to drop twenty bucks on a fat paperback. But think of this series as a slightly more friendly Yahoo! and you may feel you got your money's worth.

—Sarah Ellerman



★★★★★

THE BIG BOOK OF CONSPIRACIES
BY DOUG MOENCH
PARADOX PRESS
$12.95

While it has very little to do with the Internet proper, *The Big Book of Conspiracies* proved irresistible to review. After all, the Internet teems with rumor , hearsay and conjecture of conspiracies on every topic from Free Masons to JFK to UFOs (for further proof, see "The Greatest Conspiracy of All Time" *IU* #4). *The Big Book of Conspiracies* follows in the footsteps of others in the *Big Book* series: "Urban Legends," "Death" and "Weirdos" (all highly recommended) in presenting an anthology of conspiracies done by a melange of comic artists. *Conspiracies* hits all the usual suspects, but the theories prove illuminating, in part due to the fantastic art work by noted artists and equally due to the breezy writing of Doug Moench. Some of the best entries revolve around whether Jim Morrison faked his death and whether or not we've really been to the moon. While you may tire of every conspiracy ending up with Nazis, the CIA, aliens or some combination of the three involved, you can't blame the book—as the cover says, "We don't create 'em, we just relate 'em." An extra bonus: The Introduction is written by the Rev. Ivan Stang of the Church of the SubGenius (see "What About Bob?" *IU* #4), our favorite quasi-religious figure.

—Alex Gordon

i e ws

Ergowrist is the only ergonomically designed device that I've ever used that made my wrist hurt more from using it. The concept behind its design is to support the wrist to keep the delicate muscles and tendons from being overworked, thus preventing damage to the nerves in the carpal tunnel. However, art director Tom DeMay, managing editor Alex Gordon, a fellow in our scanning department and I all found that the Ergowrist forced our wrists to stretch into unnatural positions, making our mousing more uncomfortable than usual.

I did find that it became a little more comfortable with subsequent use. Its design keeps the wrist from resting on the desk, and it did require less hand movement. Using Ergowrist with an oval-shaped mouse seemed to restrict ability to move the mouse freely, but this did not pose a problem when using a square-shaped mouse.

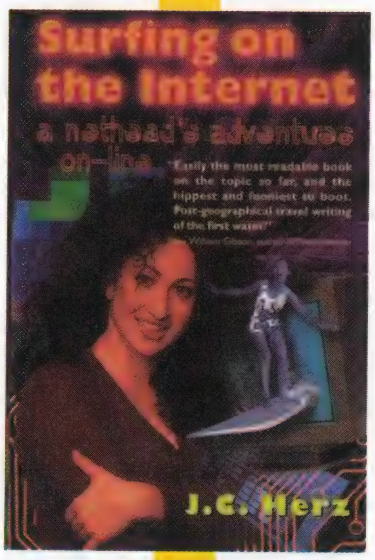
The support materials supplied to us by Ergolink note that the Ergowrist may not be suitable for small hands using a large mouse. However, the packaging never mentions this. In the spirit of disclosure, I should note that I have little hands. However, the size of DeMay's hands are rivaled only by stars of the NBA and Gordon's could only be described as average; they all found it as uncomfortable, if not more so, than I did.

This device takes some getting used to and it clearly isn't for everyone. On a positive note, Ergowrist is guaranteed. If you don't like it, they promise to let you return it for a full refund within seven days.

—Kathleen Flinn

★★

ERGOWRIST
BY ERGOLINK INC.
$11.95



New in paperback, J.C. Herz's hilarious look at 'net culture is a must read for anyone who thinks that the Internet begins and ends with the Web. Told in vignettes, Herz traces her introduction to, addiction with and ultimate repulsion from the 'net through its characters, languages and morals. Herz's journey begins as a temporary form of procrastination from finishing her term paper at Harvard: "When I look up, it's four-thirty in the morning...I've been in front of this screen for six hours, and it seems like no time at all." Through Herz's eyes we recapture what first astonished and captivated us about the 'net—a time when we didn't need dancing Java Applets or RealAudio soundtracks to amaze us. The author, part of the 'net surf team for *Wired*, goes on to explore all the brave new worlds of the 'net from chain letters and urban legends to MOOs and MUDs, eventually committing "cyber suicide." What emerges in *Surfing on the Internet* is a thoroughly enjoyable reminiscence about the pioneer days of the Internet—the early '90s.

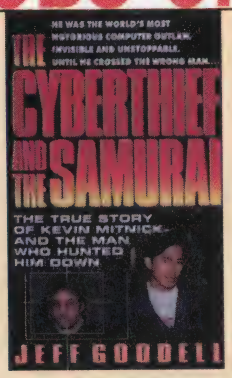
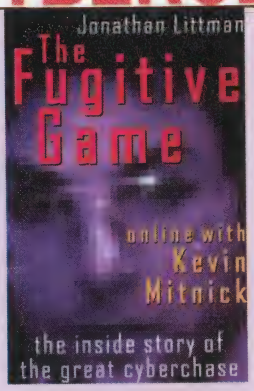
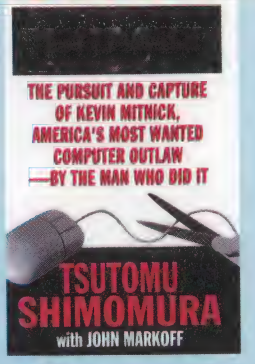
—Alex Gordon

★★★★

SURFING ON THE INTERNET:
A NETHEAD'S ADVENTURES ON-LINE
BY J.C. HERZ
BACK BAY BOOKS
$11.95

HACK JOBS OR CYBERCLASSICS?

You've probably read our Unofficial FAQ on the Mitnick affair by now (p. 30), but us review page folk wanted to offer our two cents on the subject. Sure, we could provide yet another three subjective reviews on the Mitnick books, but we decided instead to keep it simple with an easy-to-read comparative chart. Because, hey, who *doesn't* love a good chart?

Title:	 *The Cyberthief and the Samurai*	 *The Fugitive Game*	 *Takedown*
By:	Jeff Goodell	Jonathan Littman	Tsutomo Shimomura with John Markoff
Writer's Credentials:	Screenwriter and journalist. Grew up in Silicon Valley, worked for Apple, been published in *Wired*.	Investigative journalist and Author of *Once Upon a Time in Computerland*	Caught Kevin Mitnick
Publisher:	Dell Publishing	Little, Brown & Co.	Hyperion
Pages:	328* *paperback	383	324
Price:	$5.99	$23.95	$24.95
Typical Description of Mitnick:	"The world's most notorious computer outlaw"	"A serial hacker"	"America's most wanted computer outlaw"
Typical Description of Shimomura:	"A modern-day intellectual samurai"	"An enigmatic Japanese security expert"	"(A) brilliant computer security expert"
The Markoff Connection:	Author says he is "indebted" to Markoff	Publishes letter from Markoff saying "at the request of our publisher we have decided not to participate in other books on the same subject"	Markoff ghostwrote the book and is a major character
Out of context excerpt from page 234:	"Hey boss, my kung-fu is really good"	"If I was a supergenius, I wouldn't be in this mess"	"There is only one person who would use the name Brian Reid while he was trying to social-engineer you"
What *The New York Times Book Review* section had to say:	"The least embattled of these books...a skillful, balanced account"	"More loosely and self-indulgently structured...vividly conveys the seediness of Mr. Mitnick's life on the run."	"Informative, gripping and—remarkably for so complex a tale—almost always clear."

NEW FOR THE NET

1. Claris Emailer by Claris $69

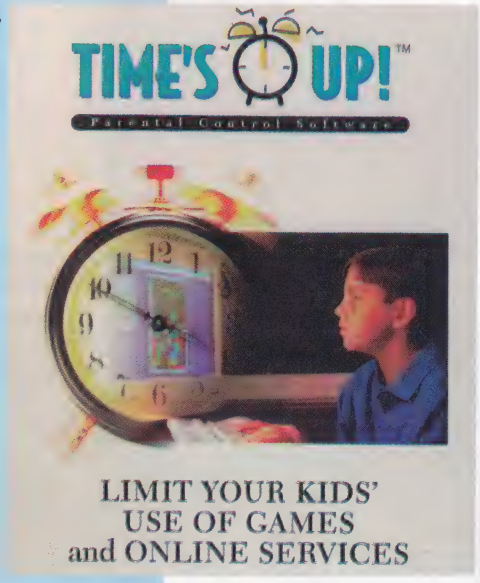
The Claris Emailer program allows Mac users to consolidate their e-mail from all their different accounts into one easy-to-use central mailbox. Emailer works with all the major online services plus any Internet POP3/SMPT server, and like most Claris products, it's incredibly simple to set up and use. Sorry, there's no Windows version planned at this time.

1.

2. Internet Value Pak by Best Data $169

The perfect product for a newbie, the Value Pak houses not only a state-of-the-art 28.8k internal modem, but also a copy of *Internet for Dummies*, and software from Total Access, Spry/Mosaic, AOL. CompuServe. Prodigy, GNN and IPhone. If this isn't enough to get you totally jazzed, tough. For PCs only.

3.

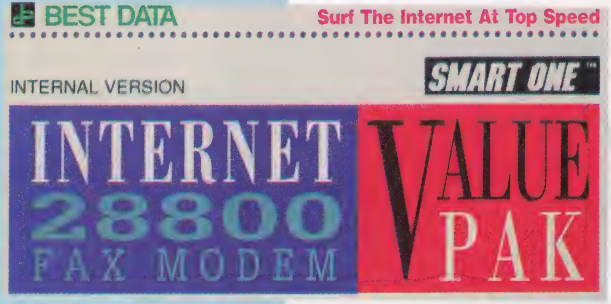


3. Time's Up! by the Fresh Software Company $44.95

Designed primarily to control the amount of time your children can spend on the computer playing games or surfing, Time's Up! has practical applications for spouses and bosses also. We're not sure if this is an advance for parental responsibility or a good excuse for parents to have technology babysit their children. For PCs only.

4.

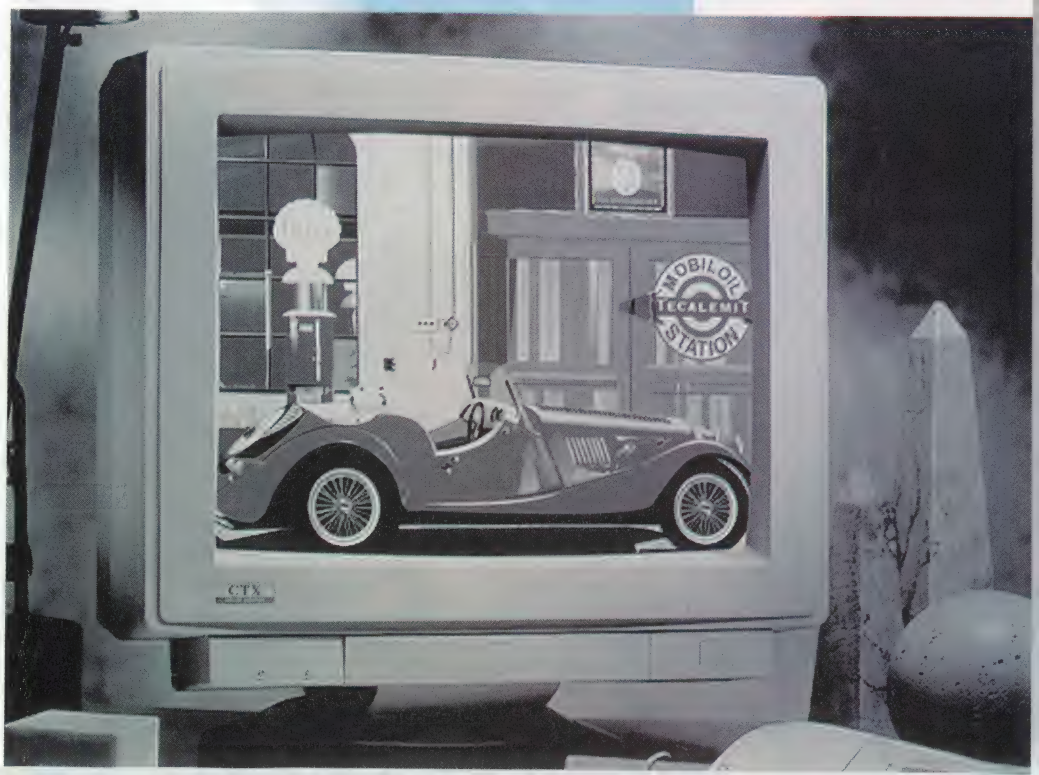
2.



4. Alarm Clock by Westclox $ varies

Oddly enough, this came packaged with our Time's Up! software. We're pretty sure it's meant to reinforce the concept of Time' Up!, but it seems like a good low-tech alternative to the software. For Mac and PC, plus any kind of sleeping.

5.



5. 2085 Color Monitor by CTX $1,699

We're sure the 2085 is a gorgeous monitor in all its splendor, but in the future their publicity people might want to send a **color** picture to promote their **color** monitor.

By Jesse Parent

403 Forbidden

Rites of Passage via the 'Net: Changing Attitudes about Modifying Bodies

Modular Bodies — Bringing Them All Together

When I first arrived at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1992, I was still high on endorphins and excitement from the tattoo my uncle had just given me at his shop, Electric Ink Tattoo. I was high on life. The design had come out perfectly; the knowledge that it was there forever made me even more excited. It was my mark, my rite of passage, and most importantly, my nickname—a jester. It meant something.

Aside from the nervousness of being at college and wondering if I could actually make it, my major concern was how I was going to get back to Rhode Island so I could get my uncle to do more work on me. I tried to find other people that were into tattoos and bodyart. Through some friends, I learned about Usenet. It was there that I found rec.arts.bodyart (RAB).

RAB was an important find for me. It was small, but popular and I quickly became a regular. RAB became a forum for people to discuss bodyart, and for those thinking of getting a bodmod to ask questions and opinions before plunging on.

From communicating with my uncle and eventually apprenticing with him to become a tattoo artist, I picked up a fair amount of tattoo knowledge. I used this knowledge to help people on RAB. As RAB's readership grew, so did the amount of e-mail I received. The FAQ for the group grew exponentially, thanks mostly to the efforts of Lani Teshima-Miller. But this information was only posted monthly and new readers with old questions were joining every day. Due to the size of the FAQ, it was considered that sending it to a new reader over e-mail would be almost rude (it knocked out quite a few people's mail servers). But this information still needed to be available. And that's when the Web showed up. Even if users had only Lynx, they could still get at the FAQ. Posting images of tattoos was discouraged, so the appearance of URLs at the end of people's .sig files became more and more common.

In 1995, I decided to learn about the Web. A friend taught me HTML in about a half hour, and I got my first home page up and running. I spiced it up with some images I scanned at school, pictures of my tattoos and others by my uncle and workers at his shop. Eventually, I added more topics and content as I came across it. On the Electric Ink page, I posted portfolios of the artists, directions and contact information. The response was enormous.

My opinion is that the Internet had come to the common man. People who were searching for information weren't just scholarly types. Now, Ma Kettle was looking for recipes, Joe Blow needed to fix his car and Kandy Apple wanted a tattoo. Some people wonder at the open exchange of information that seems to come with the Internet, but it really isn't any more open than any other community. It's just that now you have an easy way to find the people who are willing to share information not always readily accessible elsewhere.

Tattoos were once regarded the stuff of bikers, rockers and sailors. Now, more people understand the complex designs that can be rendered, tattoo parlor health requirements and the unlikeliness of contracting AIDS from a tattoo needle. One of the most frequently asked questions I have seen is "Does it hurt?" Now someone can pose this question to a forum of people in the know (such as RAB) and get a serious answer; in the past, they would have to risk the embarrassment of asking it and possibly getting heckled. Now more and more people can embrace that primal side of their selves, the part that wants a rite of passage, a way to prove their "toughness" or their resilience. Or, to just make a statement.

Many might say that increased interest in bodmods is just a fad, but I feel that the interest has always been there and always will. It's only more apparent now as it seems more socially acceptable and people are becoming more informed. Where the ignorant used to believe tattoos to be dirty and dangerous, they can now discover they are clean and can be quite elegant. The Internet, with its means of transitive education, may just be helping to overcome a stigma and creating a community at the same time.

Jesse Parent maintains the Jesster's Tattoo Page at http://www.wpi.edu/~jesster/tattoo.html

The Power of Words

JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN

SAY ANYTHING ON THE

'NET DOESN'T MEAN

YOU SHOULD

by justin ware

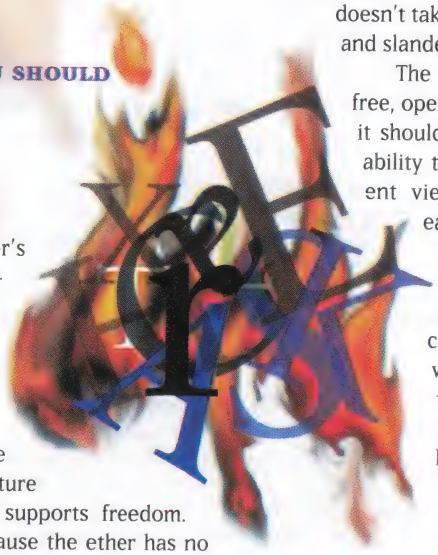
William White thought he was doing a good thing. After reading tales of a girl's emotional abuse by her mother on a newsgroup, the University of Maryland student slapped a call-to-arms up on Usenet: Give the woman a ring at home and "tell her you are disgusted and demand that she stops." Since White couldn't act alone, the collective shame of 'netizens had to be conscripted to stop the maltreatment. The mobilization worked—the home was flooded with calls berating and occasionally threatening the abusive parents.

Of course, to believe that the abuse was legitimate is a heck of an assumption to make on the 'net, where there's little way to know whether someone's being straight with you or just spinning a tale. According to *The Washington Post*, the 18-year-old student's efforts to verify the claims were scant. And the fact that White didn't even know the family only made things worse.

White's motives may have been admirable—he truly felt he was helping the girl—but really, he should be clocked over the head for a making such an incredibly stupid move.

"You should be able to write whatever you want on the Internet, whether it's true or not," White told the *Post*.

Well...no. I'm not sure what drugs have been passing through the 'net (or the University of Maryland) as of late, but this conclusion is not only wrong, it's dangerous. The Internet is nothing more than a medium for communication; its insides are no more impervious to libel laws than the pages of a book or a newspaper. Unfortunately, many 'netizens have settled into a set of the Emperor's New Clothes, mistakenly riding high with airs of invulnerability. The common wisdom on the 'net may be that chaotic structure breeds and even supports freedom. However, just because the ether has no governing body doesn't mean you can libel, threaten, accuse or even mock with gleeful (or even serious) abandon. Ornery criticism is one thing—slander and exhortations are another. Consider these phrases: "Clinton's an idiot" versus "Clinton's an idiot, so go shoot him." Anyone not see the difference there?



Calling Pat Buchanan a "dunderhead" and entreating "STOP PAT BUCHANAN BEFORE HE KILLS PUPPIES AGAIN," coupled with a phone number, are two vastly different things. Even if the latter were true, you'd better have flea collars with his fingerprints on them before you print out pamphlets calling for his head. If you had any brains, you wouldn't publicize the information yourself at all—you'd pass that job off on the press. After all, they get paid to print approximations and innuendo. You'd just get sued.

The accuracy of White's allegations aren't the point. If these parents did mistreat their daughter, they've probably been busted by now. If they didn't abuse her, then his accusations aren't only stupid, but practically beg for litigation. Threats and actions like White's have nothing to do with the First Amendment, nor do they have anything to do with Internet regulation; White's words wouldn't have been safe if he'd typed them on a Speak 'n' Spell. You might not even want to say things like that too loudly to your buddies—it doesn't take much to incite a libel and slander suit these days.

The Internet is the most free, open medium we have and it should be celebrated for its ability to spread vastly different viewpoints. It's awfully easy, however, to churn out a Usenet post or toss up a Web page without paying close attention to your words or the impact they might have.

If you're going to lob a salvo, you'd better be prepared for retaliation. White, for all his good intentions, may learn about taking responsibility for his words and actions the hard way.

>FAQ

Name: Bill Keyes, a.k.a. "The Ferret-meister"
Age: 26ish.
Gender: Boyferret.
City: Fort Collins, Colorado. Send money.
e-mail address: bkeyes@lamar.colostate.edu

Each month, we pose a set of questions to the people who make the 'net work, those who oversee newsgroups, mailing lists, Inter-relay chat channels and so on through a list of e-mail questions. Hence, the name of this page. This month, we profile the moderator of the continually perplexing newsgroup, **alt.devilbunnies**. You can find the archives on the Web at http://www.netimages.com/archives/alt.devilbunnies

> Can you explain your group and its purpose?

In the simplest terms, it's an entertainment group, a shared-universe where many different writers take a hand in developing characters and situations based around a commonly agreed-upon Mythos. The Mythos itself, however, takes a 14-part FAQ to describe fully, and I sort of doubt you'd want to reprint it here...

In a nutshell, intelligent killer bunnies are trying to take over the world (and have to a large part succeeded). The few humans who know of their existence (The Fudds) try to stop them, using weapons that range from shotguns to specially blessed vanilla extract. And that's the world we work in.

> What is the origin of your interest in the topic?

Well, I like rabbits (despite the newsgroup's rather... creative... approaches to solving the bunny problem). I was simply intrigued by the concept—intelligent, killer bunnies who want to take over the world. It's not as if one can say, "I've had a conspiracy theory of my own for years regarding rabbits," so my interest pretty much began the day I spotted the group.

> Do you have a day job? If so, what is it?

I work with the English Department at Colorado State University designing a Web page—hacker grunt work, you might say.

> What's a typical conversation thread like?

Generally, there are two types of threads: banter and stories. Stories are not meant for public comment. A writer or group of writers post their work in installments. Eventually, it all looks like a big soap opera, with stories intersecting one another...

Banter usually involves insults or snide comments tossed from one side of the war to the other. A big game of verbal tennis, you might say. Banter often revolves around events that happened in the stories.

> What do you think is the most common thing people misunderstand about your group?

That alt.dbs is *not* a free-for-all, anything goes group. Yes, we are silly, but it's a silliness that works within a particular framework. Outside of that framework, it falls apart. That's one reason why part of the FAQ is devoted to the Ground Rules of alt.devilbunnies!

> What's the strangest thing (or couple of things) that you've seen online?

I find it strange that people are still trying those Make Money Fast pyramid schemes on Usenet.

Then again, when a person spends a large part of his or her time writing fictions about deadly forest creatures, even the most mundane things eventually start sounding strange.... =)

> Are flames common in your group? If so, what usually brings them on?

We try to be "flame-free." But on the other hand, some of the banter that goes on can seem *very* hot to an outsider. But it's always done in fun, and all the writers and participants like each other, so the flames you may see are almost always imaginary.

› Describe your computer area.

My computer is in its own little room, filled with books and loose papers. My desk is alternately messy and clean, though I try to keep it mostly clean. I keep a deck of cards, some juggling beanbags, and a pair of Chinese medicine balls close at hand. The wall in front of me is also plastered with Devilbunny paraphernalia—bunny postcards, a picture of Roger Rabbit, another of Usagi Yojimbo and one of Bucky O'Hare. I can't even begin to describe some of the things that I've collected regarding this horrible bunnyphenomena...

› What do people do that make you mad (while online)?

The thing that really bugs me is what I call the "Old-timer's syndrome." You know, "I've been online for nearly 50 years! You newbies don't even know what you're talking about!"

› What are some of your favorite postings?

Some of the stories that have been posted recently are simply amazing. We have a lot of talented writers. A recent favorite of mine was titled *The Ties that Strangle*, by Greg Rapawy. On a less serious note, *Fiasco at Fudd Towers* was a lot of fun as well.

› What are you wearing?

Are you asking if I post nekkid? Heavens no. It's too cold.

› What's your favorite thing to munch on when you surf?

A toothpick. Though I don't actually swallow any of it.

› Are you a dog person or a cat person?

Heh. With a nickname like "The Ferret-meister," you have to ask?

› Where do you think the Internet is going and how will it affect society?

Oh, geez, I don't know. I think it will affect society—and has already. I imagine it will have a lot to do with whether Congress decides to pull the reins, and how successful they are at doing that. I doubt that they will be very successful, but they might make people gun-shy, which would help spell the end of the freewheeling nature of the 'net. That would be a pity.

› What would people be surprised to find out about you?

People would be surprised to learn that I am actually very little like the characters that I write about on alt.devilbunnies. Any of them!

› Finally, why is your group important?

Two reasons. First of all, it's a new art form, this interactive writing forum. As a new idea, it's still got a lot of bugs to work out, but this is something entirely new. Alt.devilbunnies is right on the cusp of interactive creativity. If the Internet survives, I think we'll go down in history as pioneers.

The second is the community that we've formed. The writers on alt.dbs are all friends, and more than that, we're like a family. We send each other cards on Christmas and for birthdays. We call each other on the phone when someone needs moral support. We hold regional get-togethers, just to meet the people on the other end of the keyboard. We've even had a few serious relationships start due to involvement with alt.dbs. In an age when people are moving further and further apart from one another, this way of connecting is becoming more and more important.

BRAINPAN

by Mike Riley

What's the future of ISDN? Well, consider its past and present.

ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) is a technology developed by AT&T in the mid-'70s to offer businesses high-speed, point-to-point digital communication. For years, the technology lumbered along, waiting for adoption by small businesses and consumers. But the acceptance of ISDN was hampered by expensive equipment and limited national support. Before the Web, home users had little need for the larger, more expensive bandwidth.

The Internet opened up the ISDN market by luring in digital frontiersmen with dreams of reaching their virtual destinations faster than their analog modem-based neighbors. Yet, like the 1849 gold rush, reality brought many of these hopeful adopters to their knees. ISDN might be quick, but it isn't easy.

Most articles written about the subject rarely mention where to get started. It's almost as if the authors are part of a secret club that extols the benefits of being a member but infers to its readers that ISDN seekers will have to engage in their own trial by fire to gain invitation into the circle elite.

But it's only after finding out where to call that the true test of persistence begins. In my experience, ISDN applicants get shuffled from operator to operator based on the familiarity and correct responses provided to the IVR (interactive voice response) systems employed by many telephone companies these days. They will also be accosted with such questions as, "How do you want your B and D channels configured? What type of terminal adapter are you using? Are you looking for more than a BRI?" Assuming the applicant studied the technology and successfully passed this acid test, it's on to the next level of induction - locating an ISP (Internet service provider) in a nearby vicinity that offers ISDN connectivity to the 'net. Assuming an ISP with reasonable charges is found, the next phase is purchasing compatible equipment. Unlike modems, ISDN equipment is more finicky and prefers to communicate best (and sometimes exclusively) with a duplicate of itself, or at least a sibling from the same manufacturer. After a few more initiation tests, the hopeful ISDN adopter may finally be linked to the Internet at speeds four times faster than a conventional 28.8K modem. But the final bout may face these troopers upon the bill for their ISDN hookup and usage fees. In the end, the ISDN survivors are either exhausted with their newfound transfer speed or broke from the economic stress of equipment and fees, disillusioned by the grueling experience.

On the flip side of all this, think about the experience associated with ordering a cable TV connection. Phone number jingles are sung on the radio and TV day and night and plastered on print ads, mailers and billboards. The ordering process is straightforward, usually consisting of two simple questions: Where do you live, and what package would you like to order? Installation is usually free and the operation of receiving programming is as simple as turning on your TV and selecting a channel.

Maybe that's why a prominent executive with Motorola, successful manufacturers of home and small business-based ISDN connectivity products, recently stated that his company's line of ISDN products are dead and that their new product line, the CyberSURFR cable modems, will win out. Sounds like a smart choice, considering that cable modems can provide up to 10 megabits per second transfer rates, blowing ISDN speeds right out of the marketplace. Cable providers like TCI and Jones are poising their cable modem launches for '97. By the time the telco companies refine the ISDN ordering process, cable modems will be all the rage. While there are sure to be limitations with cable modems, the technology will be rapidly embraced for two reasons: ease of ordering and the cost vs. performance ratios. If the cable providers are smart, they will provide cable modem services as a premium service with a fixed monthly cost for unlimited access, say $30 a month. At those rates, independent ISPs and local telcos with ISDN options will be overpriced and outperformed by the cable companies and must either find an even faster, more economical solution or die on the vine. Considering ISDN's feeble track record to date, it's not difficult to predict the future of ISDN. It has none.

Mike Riley heads up Sendai Interactive Media and oversees http://www.nuke.com.

page 82

WebGuide

the underground guide to what's hot on the web

83
AMUSEMENTS
The great time-waster. If it's useless, fun and will threaten your sanity or employment status, you'll find it here.

85
BANDWIDTH
Your guide to getting the most out of the 'net

86
CATHODECELLULOID
A whirlwind tour of what's on the *other* screens

87
JOCKS
Sports. Something you must abandon your computer to participate in.

88
NEWSPRINT
All the news that's fit to download

89
MICROCHIPS
Utilitarian, adj.Stressing usefulness over beauty or other considerations. -*Webster's New World Dictionary*

90
TUNEAGE
Satisfy your aural fixation

92
THE 3 R'S
Riotous, rerevealing and revivifying. And you just may learn a thing or two.

94
'ZINES
What to read after devouring *Internet Underground*

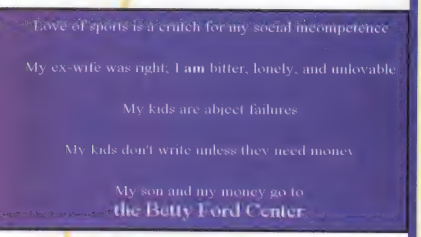
96
CELEBRITIES
A visual, virtual gossip column

95
ETC.
Well, we didn't know what to do with it. What would you call it?

You know change. Change is what you put into a toll booth or insert into a soda machine. It's what you never have with you when you find that awesome parking spot right in front. Now, *Internet Underground* is going to give you change. If you accept this change, you'll enjoy—with unbridled glee—the Webguide presented in this lofty spot in the back of the magazine. If you do not accept our change, you may cut out these pages and make paper cranes. We assure you, the same salient content has been given a new set of accouterments, with fashion colors and freedom fabrics. With all of this change, you might even be able to finish your laundry.

THE ASYLUM'S LITE BOARD
http://asylum.cid.com/lb/lb.html
One of the Grandfather Web sites that still manages to be maintained frequently. Like the paper vs. hot light bulb game that at least two-thirds of American youth had in the '70s, Electronic Lite-Brite is even more fun than poking colored plastic pegs through black construction paper. Peruse the Asylum art collection gallery to observe those who came before you and leave your own creation for tomorrow's children. Two years of archived creations are also available for artistic inspiration.
Webmaster: asylum@cid.com
★★★★★

THE BOOGER PAGE
http://www.cybersim.com/booger/default.htm
This page is completely disgusting. It revels in graphic descriptions of nose-picking. There are pictures, too. You might not like the pictures. The humor is gross-out and sophomoric, so we predict that many people will enjoy it even if they say they didn't. We thought the link to a commercial insurance site was rather odd, but hey, you get your business any way you can.
Webmaster: Walts Shadow
★



BUMPER STICKERS
http://www.polaris.net/~merlin/bumpers.html
"Love of sports is a crutch for my social incompetence." If this quote is inspiring to you, stop by this site. A list of bumper stickers that reveal inner self are displayed here in graphically dull presentation. After "Honk if you follow directions well," it is probably time to exit the site. The page is not much of a commitment, but it is worth a couple of short, non-exerting laughs.
Webmaster: Merlin D. Mann
★

COOL E-MAILS
http://mmm.mbhs.edu/~tjou/mail/mail.html
We're not really sure that "cool" is exactly the right word for these e-mails, but it'll do. The e-mail lists, jokes and stories range from the trite to the genuinely amusing, and are well-suited for copy-and-pasting them to your friends in the absence of anything personal to say. This Hallmark mentality saddens us, but we will admit that we got some giggles out of "Children of the '80s" and "Does God Know UNIX?"
Webmaster: Ted Jou
★★

COOL WORD OF THE DAY
http://www.dsu.edu/projects/word_of_day/word.html
We are not worthy. This site is a literary pinnacle. A true mecca for polyglots. An arcade to verbal greatness. The beauty is, you are not limited to the word of the day; you can search through past words. Pukka! Inveigle! Study hard, use these runes wisely and they will be good to you…bring you riches and all of that.
Webmaster: Anthony, Mike
★★★★

COWS CAUGHT IN THE WEB
http://www.brandonu.ca/~ennsnr/Cows/Welcome.html
You haven't seen it all until you've visited this page and witnessed its obsession with cows. Loads of information on those hapless, mooing, good-natured bovines that hang about fields all day, including trivia (1930 was the first flight by a cow in an airplane), sounds (a cow bell and a moo), humor and pictures (cows hiding behind trees). Also has links to many other fan pages, commercial pages and the newsgroup alt.cows.moo.moo.moo.
Webmaster: Opt the Cow and Neil Enns
★★★★

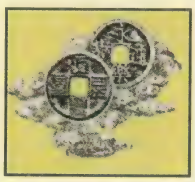
CYBER PETS
http://www.cyberpet.com/cgibin/var/cyberpet/index.htm
A plethora of breeding information and missions for cyberdogs and cats is begging to be viewed at this site. Just about anything you want to know about the four-legged beasts that win our hearts and stain our carpets can be discovered with a click of the mouse. Links to pet care, breeding facts, pet FAQ and other treats are tossed your way like juicy hotlinks. Woof. Graphic puppies and kitties leap at the chance to show you around this bountiful pet nirvana.
Webmaster: Cyberpet
★★★★

THE FETISH CAFÉ
http://www.infobahnos.com/~fetishad/
"This page has been spanked 18,533 times" is only the beginning. Fetish leather clothing, clubs, films and virtually any variety of kink can be located and cuffed at this site. It ranges from mildly lewd to amazingly crude, depending where you journey. One tip, remember which corner of your screen quickly enables screen savers when viewing this site.
Webmaster: fetishad@infobahnos.com
★★★

FRUIT OF THE DAY
http://www.cs.umd.edu/users/mike/fruit-of-the-day.html
The e-mail opportunity of a lifetime is right here. Seventy fruits will cycle through your life if you drop the FOTD dudes a line. You are probably thinking, "70 fruits, there are many more than that…" We thought so too, so we took the webmaster's advice and sat down to make a list. If you can get past 30, you are a better human than we. Or, perhaps, you're an insect. Be warned if you attempt to submit a fruit not on the list; these guys are radicals—they refuse to accept that the tomato is a fruit.
Webmasters: Mike Steele, Todd
★★

GREAT SHOT GLASS SEARCH
http://www.netm.com/prc/newsltr/walinski/shot.htm
Dad was right. That shot glass from the Alamo gift shop is going to be worth something someday. That someday is now. If your vacations have included spurious stops along old Route 66 or short trips to wax museums and commercialized caverns, eureka! You've struck gold. No matter what that shot glass might say, the weirder the better, this site asks you to send it in in exchange for a CD-ROM, a link with your name, address and a brief description of your donation and all the forthcoming fame associated with it. The rewards here are better than most tax refunds and certainly more memorable.
Webmaster: DRWnet
★★★★

I-CHING READINGS
http://www.facade.com/Occult/iching/
Ancient help for modern-day strife: First visualize your question, not a "yes-no" (Refer to the Magic Eight-Ball for that). Next, cast the coins by clicking on a button that says precisely that. A thorough explanation of the Yin-Yang patterns will help you determine your next step in life, ie. should I eat a bagel while I drive to work or should I go to sleep instead of doing that report? The placement of the lines will warn you of danger associated with a choice you may be inclined to make without the coins guiding you. Rest may be in your future… get off the Web. Go to sleep.



Webmaster: Jonathan Katz
★★★★

IN THE FEET OF THE NIGHT
http://in the feetofthenight.com/
Besides the fact that this site mostly functions as an ad for the "Feet" BBS, it is amusing just the same. Pictures of Cindy Crawford, Tyra Banks and Julia Roberts are of the more known and recognized feet on the site. "Teasing feet" are displayed for more anonymous fetish fans. More bipedal glee than anyone should be allowed, with one exception, there are no male feet here, so the site is not complete.

Webmaster: terryw@voicenet.com
★★

JACKPOT
http://www.cs.umu.se/cgi-bin/scripts/jackpot
This siren of a site will torment and hook you like a heartless incubus. You'll be tortured, repeatedly, by the message, "You get nothing…" If you're lucky, you'll click for another chance at virtual slots and win several "coins." The real sickness here is that even if you get "two coins," you get nothing, yet you can't turn away…I curse the day…
Webmaster: Anders Selander
You get nothing… (Ha)

MERRILL SHINDLER'S GUIDE TO EATING PRETTY GOOD
http://www.gigaplex.com/wow/food/index.htm
Shindler's list includes recipes, food facts, surveys and tips on where to find the best steak in the U.S. The Los Angeles Zagat Survey author and host of KABC talkradio's "Dining Out With Merrill Shindler Show," also hosts this FoodPlex site, describing himself as, "Just a big ole hungry boy," serving up lots of food for thought. A balance of graphics and content make this site entertaining, educational and a wee bit campy. We can't overlook the highlights though. A breakdown of the "distribution of letters in alphabet soup" and "foreign foods that aren't foreign" are two appetizers you'll sample here.
Webmaster: Merrill Shindler
★★★★★

MY DIARY ON GETTING A GIRLFRIEND
http://www.wtoc.net/~atapaz/diary/
One man's laborious search for the femme ideal. By the third day of his pursuit of the red-haired vixen, you're hooked. A naïve little story, a seemingly deserving guy and a cold-hearted vixen weave this soda-pop opera into a fine form of entertainment. Kudos, however, go to the great links Mr. Heartbreak Hotel gives fellow browsers. Thanks Elvis. We're behind you 100 percent.
Webmaster: David Atapaz
★★★★

POPSPEAK
http://www.blender.com/blender1.1/digest/popspeak/popspeak1.html
What's Popspeak? Says BlenderWeb, it's "the use of pop-cultural references to summarize an entire style or attitude." Stepford means android-like and John-Boy is "simplistically sincere and 'All-American.'" We had fun with the dialogue examples, but found the whole thing a little too much of a Coupland rip-off at times.
Webmaster: Blenderweb
★★★★

READ MY LIPS
http://www.fred.net/karina/vent.html
Billed as the only ventriloquism home page around, our curiosity was sufficiently piqued to check it out. We found a surprising number of people interested in the art of throwing your voice and misdirecting attention. You'll find a cultural history of the craft, user comments and suggestions, puppetry resources, conventions, organizations and best of all, a link to the ventriloquist figures (Howdy Doody et al) that J.C. Penney sells for only $29.99.
Webmaster: Karina
★★

THE SOUTHERN WORD HOMEPAGE
http://ua1vm.ua.edu/~crispen/word.html
The Southern Word of the Day has had about 20 entries in the past several months, so we question the "daily" issue. However, the words listed were "farn" to us, but moderately, if briefly entertaining. Terms such as "Haze," used as the contraction "he's" and "Bob war" used to describe a twisted cable or fence are two examples of the short but fruitful list shown here. A gosh darn hoot, that's what this is.
Webmaster: Patrick Douglas Crispen
★★

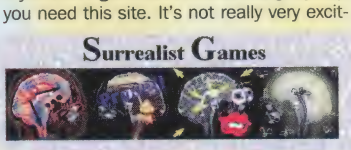
STAR WARS NEXT GENERATION OF TOYS
http://www.engr.iupui.edu/~mrardon/newsw.html

Assuming this site was created to make those of us who threw out our Han Solo dolls feel like morons, it worked. The next generation of these toys is an opportunity to redeem ourselves by collecting again. Recent additions, reviews of the toys and cheat codes for Star Wars games should entice you to try the force. The ftp picture archive is more fun than a wax museum.
Webmaster: Matt Rardon
★★★★

SUBINTELLECT'S PERSONALITY TEST
http://anonym.com/aboutest.html
Answer 44 questions and you will be neatly packed into one of 16 personality categories that will apparently enlighten you as to what type of person you are. The questions are simple moral/ethical issues: "I'd rather take part in torturing... animals... humans?" and "The writers of this test are... smarter than me... dumber than me," and do not require calculus or any uncomfortable personal disclosure. Most inspiring is the "Take this test at your own risk" message at the top of the page.
Webmaster: newt@anonym.com
(rating pending test results)

> **"I'd rather take part in torturing: a) animals b) humans"**

SUBWAY FROM DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN
http://www.gc.cuny.edu/directions/Subway.DownTown.Manhattan.html
If you can't get into or out of the gritty city, you need this site. It's not really very exciting; no Clickable icons of subway routes can help you navigate your way through the Bronx and other urban battle zones. Notes such as route exceptions and alternative route action is available. If you can make it here, you'll make it anywhere.
Webmaster: Steve Yoman
★★★



SURREALIST GAMES
http://pharmdec.wustl.edu/juju/surr/games/
For those who view surrealism as sport, this site cannot be missed. Tristan Tzara's method of writing a Dada poem and the exquisite cadaver (or corpse) activity is explained in a non-stream-of-consciousness manner and makes a remarkably entertaining how-to manual. Not just party ideas here, this site offers a way of life, a higher existence. So watch your radio jingle times opera.
Webmaster: lynn@pharmdec.wustl.edu
★★★★

THE TIMEWASTER PAGE
http://www.warwick.ac.uk/~msucy/timewasters/index.html
Lavish page dedicated to the fantastic hobby of timewasting. Chris begins by noting, "If you can admire [the main index] for five minutes without selecting anything, then you are already doing well." You're invited to leisurely browse about, read about the basics of timewasting and progress to advanced forms. The pastime is elevated to high status here. Chris also points out that "the 'sharper' persons amongst you will have already realised that I am actually writing this to waste time myself. (So it can, in effect, be considered an 'active demonstration.')" We especially liked his tips on how to waste time AND fool your boss into thinking you're hard at work.
Webmaster: Chris Carline
★★★

TOILET TRAINING: AN ONLINE GUIDE TO URINAL ETIQUETTE
http://gpu.srv.ualberta.ca/~msykes/thome.html
Ruminations on the intricacy involved in various urinal configurations and situations. For instance, if there are three urinals, and someone is already standing at the middle one, what should you do? You'll find the answer herein. Clearly, this guy has given a lot of thought to protecting his privacy and keeping embarrassment in the washroom down to a minimum. Added bonus: tips on talking in the bathroom!
Webmaster: Michael Sykes
★★★★

UNDERWIRED
http://www.covesoft.com/underwired/
We really, really liked this snide and fun parody of WIRED. OverTired/ UnderWired is a what's hot/ what's not list (hint: Account reps are out, accountability is in), Fetid plays off of Fetish: Techno-lust for things that smell really, really bad, ad parodies and debates about design abound. Have fun. You can actually read this thing.
Webmasters: Marci Mansfield-Fickes and Bill Pulver
★★★★★

VIK TROLA'S LOUNGE OF SELF-INDULGENCE
http://www.chaoskitty.com/t_chaos/lounge.html
Cool like a mustached-cat thumping a stinging-steel harmonica rhythm to a lust-drunk stranger, cabaret style. I hear Esquivel. Do you? Just like the real thing, you'll find a lobby for information, a coat check for cool left-behinds, a bar for liquid jubilation, a Henri (which no good lounge would be without), a kitchen for the chow down, Johan Dada Vis' swell CD list and links for Vik's hot spots (Mr. Lucky's is a good choice). If the mainstream jive is too square, peruse the back rooms... . We most appreciated the chance to Weblounge-hop with Mr. Vik. He even returned us safely. A true feel-good site that's always changing.
Webmaster: Vik Trola
★★★★★

DOCTOR HTML

http://imagiware.com/RxHTML.cgi

We can overlook the blatant pimping of advertising space on this site long enough to commend its usefulness. This is a decent

site for analyzing the structure, spelling, validity of hyperlinks, images, command syntax and table structure of your home page or of another site vulnerably awaiting ridicule. Simply enter a URL and allow about three to five minutes for the analysis and summary of the site as interpreted per the criteria you select. What you do with the feedback you receive is more information than we need.

Webmaster: Imaginware

★★★

HTML EXAMPLE PAGE

http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~csandvig/ip/example.html

Excellent little tutorial with two side-by-side columns demonstrating HTML coding and its effects. This is a clear and visual demonstration of what tags to use and how they come out looking through a browser. It's easy to follow because the code runs down one side and the results keep pace on the opposite side of the page.

Webmaster: Christian Sandvig

★★★★

INTERNET CONFERENCE CALENDAR

http://www.automatrix.com/conferences/index.shtml

If it has to do with the Internet, you'll find it here. You can search through links of cities and countries where Internet conferences and classes are taking place, or search by date to see what is coming up in the near future. An option to submit information, regarding your own event or something you know of that is not on the list is also available. Remember, the Internet is not just the Web and the Web is not just entertainment. Get out and meet people and learn to do the stuff that makes the Internet so cool.

Webmaster: info@automatrix.com

★★★★★

INTERNET HOMEPAGE DIRECTORY

http://www.azc.com/client/houser/housdir.html

If it's people you want, it's people they've got. A search by name or first letter can catapult you from house party to house party. Some of the most intriguing content is on little homemade sites so don't pass this opportunity up. If you have your own home page and you are not on the list, catch up baby tomato and submit yourself to the directory for the fame you know you want and fail to get.

Webmaster: Peter Deitz

★★★★

INTERNET TOURBUS

http://www1.mhv.net/~bobrankin/tourbus/

If cybersurf is not your bag, kick back and cruise on the soul train of the Internet. "Why surf when you can ride the bus?" is the motto of this show which presents the passive side of the Web. Unlike most bus rides, you can safely interact with the other people on the bus and stop by their home pages. If you're not sold yet, there are no transfers, muggers, screaming children or Jack

Daniels soloists on this ride—just you, the other tourists and the Tourbus guides.

Webmasters: Patrick Crispen, Bob Rankin

★★★★

LOWTECH HEADQUARTERS

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/MREY

Are they following us or are we following them. These guys dig the same stuff we do...check out their links. The Lowtech site offers mouse tips, search engine links and groovy links along the way. Lowtech mostly functions as a Sinclair quick-stop along the cyberway. Fuel up, chow down and be on your way.

Webmaster: Matthew Rey, Victor V.

★★★

MOTHERSOFT

http://www.louisville.edu/~jadour01/mothersoft/

"MotherSoft is a loose-knit organization devoted to making good, solid,useful software freely available to the general public. We despise counter-intuitive hidden source code, trade secrets, snobby copyrights and other elements of tight-wad software development that has made a dark blotch in the history of computer software." These friendly programmers give code away free. You'll find graphical finger PERL scripts, a free CGI utility that generates multiple inline GIF images from one image source file, a random URL generator and much more.

Webmaster: Jason A. Dour

★★★★★

NET.TECH

http://www.pulver.com/~krave/nettech.htm

Surprisingly large, and liberally peppered with hotlinks, this catalog of modern Internet technologies and protocols is quite a fun read. Kushal has listed every major (and some minor) contestant in every ballpark on the 'net—VRML, chat utilities, videoteleconferencing, password tracking, wireless Internet, radio online, graphic compression, animation, video, animation and much, much more. Great if you feel you can't possibly keep up with the acronym soup.

Webmaster: Kushal Dave

★★★★★

PIXELSITE

http://www.pixelsight.com:80/PS/pixelsite/pixelsite.html

This interactive graphics design tool will help those of you without the budget for a personal copy of Photoshop to create custom graphics for your Web site. Combine different elements to make buttons with various text and icons, borrow textures for backgrounds, play with banners and download clip and ASCII art. An extensive collection bridging the gap between being a library and a laboratory.

Webmaster: Keith Ohlfs

★★★

SPIDERWOMAN HOME PAGE

http://www.primenet.com/~pax/

Defined as "Spiderwoman: 1. an Internet mailing list. 2. a community of women and men dedicated to supporting women Web designers." With links to directories of wired women and also page designing pointers. A great, friendly page combining social commentary, fun and technology.

Webmaster: Stephanie Brail

★★★★

SYMBOLTABLE

http://www.bbsinc.com/symbol.html

Simple but invaluable resource listing the codes for various foreign, non-standard and symbolic characters and their HTML codes. If you're stumped when trying to code a yen symbol, an umlaut or an accented letter, this is the reference for you.

Webmaster: Best Business Solutions

★★★

WORLD VILLAGE

http://www.worldvillage.com

Step right up to a multimedia extravaganza. This site is like the person at the birthday party that spun you while you wore the handkerchief and held the donkey tail. It's a guiding light to finding entertaining and educational content on the Web. Links such as the Schoolhouse, with excellent academic resources, Gamer's Zone, Multimedia links and Hot sites of the week make your stay here pleasant and informative. The functional design is not only eye-catching, but logical as well.

Thank you Watson. It may be elementary, but we liked it.

Webmaster: www.worldvillage.com

★★★★★

CLERKS

http://www.us.itd.umich.edu/~mingchen/clerks/

"There's nothing more exhilerating than pointing out the shortcomings of others." If there were shortcomings in this

site, we'd point them out and Randall would be proud. We found very few faults. In fact, this site was downright amusing, just like the film. Little unknown truths about the movie, like the fact that it was to be NC-17 until OJ Simpson's defense attorney Alan Dershowitz appealed the rating. The sound bites on this site make awesome downloads for later usage; the images are classic Americana. Regretfully, we could not find the Silent Bob line in an audio file.

Webmaster: Ming

★★★★

DANGERMOUSE-THE SECRET AGENT IN THE WORLD

http://www.charm.net/~altera/dm/index.html

This tribute to the "Daring Dashing Dynamic Mouse" and others such as Agent 57, the master of disguise, is a treasure trove of music, images and indices relating to the television cartoon series. Great pictures of DangerMouse companions and enemies make wonderful desktop patterns. The site is not 100 percent complete but it is more than we expected with that type of a warning emblazoned on the home page. The author asks for assistance to grow her collection. It's a worthy cause.

Webmaster: Nicole

★★★★

ANDREW HICKS-MOVIE CRITIC AT LARGE

http://www.missouri.edu/~c667778/movies.html

Andrew takes honorable mention to "Teen Movie Critic." He laces his reviews with self-proclaimed humorous insight as a competitive edge. His task has been laborious and his library is large; however, without aplomb. We have hope though. Andrew just needs to find his niche. Not a bad place to start for a general consensus on major films though.

Webmaster: Andrew Hicks

★★★

HONG KONG MOVIES PAGE

http://www.mdstud.chalmers.se/hkmovie/

The searchable movie database is the ace to paint the face card at this site. Initiate a search by the name of the actor/actress or a word in the title of the Chinese film you are searching for and a list of hits will be your vane. Please have some idea what you're looking for as there is no "dummy override" or "sounds like" feature to search with. Lists of films from the pulse of the Chinese film industry as well as links to other useful film sites are what this site offers besides the search tool. If you're entirely lost, check out the FAQ and interview section to get a grasp. You don't want to miss out on the information here so investigate well.

Webmaster: Lars Erik Holmquist

★★★★

KNIGHT RIDER

http://users.aol.com/ashah70685/home.html

"For four years, they rode together... A man who does not exist and a car unlike any other..." Like being buried alive, this television show is scratching at the viewers to keep it on the surface of popularity. It is likely that its newly-found retro-cool status will keep it above for at least another year. We apologize for reviewing yet another Knight Rider site; however, there are so many. We think this lends insight to the minds of Americans and we want you to be aware. Someday this will all be gone, and you'll thank us for the memories.

Webmaster: Ajay Niranjan Shah

★★★

THE UNOFFICIAL SID & MARTY KROFFT HOME PAGE

http://www.west.net/~popomatic/krofft.html

Bugaloos, Land of the Lost, Sigmund &

the Sea Monsters... If you're saying, "Yeah H.R. Pufnstuf, what's the deal with that flute?" this site is for you. Any merchandise, videos, images or theme songs for the Krofft shows can be found at this site in frightening totality. The author must have spent eons preparing and collecting the information you'll find in this collection. The GIFs are great. Stay tuned for the Krofft "Kwiz" coming soon.

Webmaster: David Holifield

★★★★★

LAUREL AND HARDY

http://www.sirius.com/~sramsey/TheBoys/LandH.html

This is a content-rich Web site we really dug until we found ourselves mesmerized by the background of the pages—they were all a lurid shade of green. We were haunted by it from the start. At first we thought it was a grassy sort of shade, kind of nice even. Then we began arguing over the green. Then it dawned on us; the green was controlling our lives and tearing us apart. We eventually learned to overcome our feelings for the green by reading through the text. The Laurel and Hardy

film guide and image gallery are quite impressive. The listing of the L&H films is extensive and chronological. Perhaps the most useful element is the listing of show times for the various films. Back to that green...

Webmaster: Steve Ramsey

★★★★

SEAQUEST

http://www.phoenix.net/~leigh/seaQuest/episodes/

Every SeaQuest enthusiast should see this site and donate more info to make it grow. A good base is constructed: sound samples, nice water background, very brief episode synopses but no images. Half of the appeal of the show to begin with was that it looked so cool. Now that the show has been given the network ax, what better time to preserve its contents on the Web. Don't get us wrong. We are not encouraging graphic explosions; sometimes we just want more. It's the human condition. Maybe just one picture of the UEO cast...please? More talking dolphin audio files couldn't hurt; after all, this is the U.S. and we did nominate Babe for picture of the year.

Webmaster: Bev

★★★

TEEN MOVIE CRITIC

http://www.skypoint.com/members/magic/roger/teencritic.html

Roger has won a place in everyone's heart. We're just waiting for Roger to be stolen away from his 'net fans to the cruel, cold world of television. Please don't sell out, Roger. We need you more than them. If you don't know Roger, the 17-year-old movie critic, it's time you came out of your stasis. His movie reviews are current, extensive and astute; they are far more entertaining than most reviews you'll see on television (hence our fear). His latest addition to the site is the "Director of the Week," feature and certainly par for the site.

Webmaster: Roger Davidson

★★★★★

TOY STORY

http://www.toystory.com/index.html

Exactly what we'd expect from Disney and its latest box-office coup. We are not above admiring a good, megapower corporate site when we see one. This site is proof that with a large enough budget, anything can be done—much like the cool film these pages complement. Replete with Quicktime movies, sound files, still images and the "Dear Bo" FAQ, this site is a dizzying example of why Disney will probably someday rule the world. Of course you'll need lots of time to download large movies and wait for images to fill your screen, but what's five hours in Nevernever land?

Webmaster: andys-room@www.toystory.com

★★★★★

THE UNDERGROUND NOWHERE MAN EPISODE GUIDE

http://www.winternet.com/~cpj1/nwman/index.html

This extensive list of Nowhere Man information leads us to believe he must, in fact, exist somewhere to be worthy of chewing up so much bandwidth. Don't search for juicy GIFs or anything other than a full list of the cast, episodes and the site's plans for the future. The UPN site for Nowhere Man offers to fill the visual void—the Yang of the TV show's sites—try viewing both, hopping back and forth, for true fulfillment.

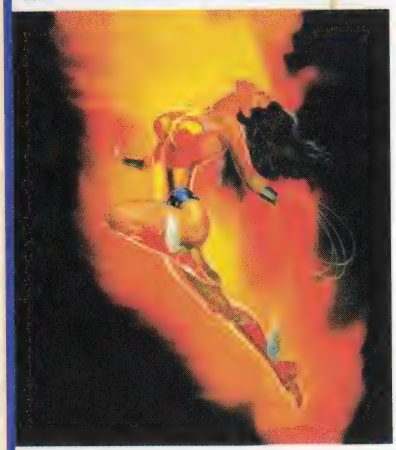
Webmaster: Christopher Josephes

★★

WONDER WOMAN HOME PAGE

http://www.io.org/~arhythm/phpl.cgi?ww/ww.htm

Move over Superman; this site rocks. You'll find a collection of some of the most interesting images of the superheroine placed in imaginative features such as the evolution of the Wonder



Woman costume and the opportunity to pick the next star for the role. Shockwave interactive film is the happening now portion of the page and GIFs and theme song files garnish the plate. Episode information and cast lists are amazingly detailed. Do you have a job webmaster? A WONDERful journey.

Webmaster: wonderwoman@smsolutions.net

★★★★★

ADAM SILVER'S HOME PAGE
http://www.glue.umd.edu/~silver/welcome.html
Mr. Silver asks, "Who says I look like Mr. Clean?" This Web site is a personal testimony to bodybuilding. In fact, weightlifting and even arm-wrestling, as the highly underrated sport that it is, are also addressed in full metal detail. If the many facets of muscle exhibition have always fascinated you, visit Adam and check out his buffed GIFs. Let's give a big round of applause to Silver for displaying his competition photos... hip hip...
Webmaster: Adam Silver
★★★

ANGLERS ONLINE
http://www.streamside.com/index.html
If flyfishing is not something you think you'll find in alt.sex, you should check out this site. The fishing yellow pages are full of links to gear, trip planning and just about anything you'd want to know about this centuries-old sport. Join the fisherman's, or excuse us, fisherperson's chat room or take advantage of the Anglers online search engine, optimizing your time on the waterfront and minimizing your time on the keyboard. Whatever you do, don't forget to submit your "Big one" photo to the scrapbook.
Webmaster: fishhead@inetmkt.com
★★★★★

CARD COLLECTORS COMPANY
http://www.wwcd.com/cardhaven/catalog.html
Baseball card collectors will get a kick out of this online ordering site that offers some of the rarest, priciest and strangest items from America's favorite pastime. Dream of owning a 1952 Mickey Mantle ($16,000) or be befuddled by the sale of a $250 Mikhail Gorbechev signed baseball. The site also offers baseball catalogs, postcards and other miscellaneous collectibles. Where it lacks in graphics it makes up for in content.
Webmaster: Card Collectors Company
★★★★

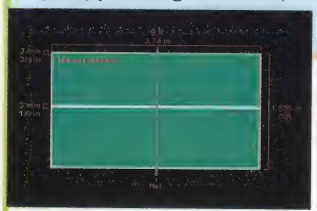
HANG GLIDING SITE
http://www.vii.com/hang/
Serious hang gliding enthusiasts will be pleased with the "touch sensitive" world map that lists the best international locations for the sport. Also, join site coordinator Dave Taylor on a pictorial over Mount Timpanogos (hey Dave, you might want to mention where the heck the mountain is located in the caption). A lengthy journal of hang gliding stories and adventures accompanies the site as well.
Webmaster: David Taylor
★★★

HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNTING
http://www.quicksilver.com/~bgarrabr/thunt/
Very strange sport. The idea here is to track down the fox—a person hiding a transmitter in an area ranging in size from a small park to the continental U.S. Find out how to use antennas, attenuators, sniffers, radios, transmitters and other useful equipment to find your prey. And for the hidden, get a full description on an RACon6805 concealing device. Very technical site, but incredibly interesting.
Webmaster: Byon, KD6BCB
★★★★

HOME OF THE NERLAND WALRUS BROOMBALL TEAM
http://137.229.23.84/nerland.html
"Goalies have to shout profane things at both teams, all the time." Beyond that, there doesn't seem to be very many rules to broomball, an ice hockey-like free-for-all that pits two teams of five to seven players against one another. Armed only with a taped-up broom, competitors must knock the broomball, which is about the size of a size three soccer ball, into the opposing goal. The site is nothing special, but the "rules page" is rather amusing.
Webmaster: Joseph Horkey
★★

LA JOLLA SURFING WWW
http://facs.scripps.edu/surf/surfing.html
Yes. There is actually a sport called surfing that doesn't require a modem. For complete surf conditions around the globe, storm tracks, equipment info, newsgroups, surf images and QuickTime movies, this is the alley you want. The site has a lot of links and useful information presented in a straightforward manner, without a lot of hype. We're definitely inspired to trade in our mouse for some real gear. Maybe.
Webmaster: trotter@scripps.edu
★★★★★

PING PONG
http://sweet.ua.pt/~ruimelo/pingpong/
This arm of Rui Melo's home page is dedicated to the sport that made Forrest Gump rich enough to buy a shrimp boat. We can't offer that sort of prosperity by simply checking out this site; but we can promise you'll have the opportunity to learn the U.S. laws for table tennis via downloadable files and to study the dimensions of the standard table by viewing the illustrations on this site. FAQ mail archives attempt to answer your questions, if you have the patience to download them.
Webmaster: Rui Melo
★★★



THE PRO REFEREE/UMPIRE HOME PAGE
http://fly.hiwaay.net/~gmcgriff/referee.htm
The site is incomplete but lists some interesting refereeing information. Discuss historical "situation highlights" like "Did the Ball Hit the Batter," "Force Play at Home—Bases Loaded—No outs" and "Pitcher Throws the Ball Dead." For officials, frustrated by overzealous coaches, enter a discussion on "Dealing with Coaches." Information is provided for those involved at the high school, college and professional level.
Webmaster: Gary S. McGriff
★★

SHEARWATER ADVENTURES
http://www.pacificrim.net/~kayak/
Everything you need to know about where and when to kayak and at what cost can be found here. Nationwide kayaking locations, first-aid tips and weather links are some of the resources fans of water adventure sports will enjoy. Regretfully, we didn't find cool GIFs or exciting kayaking noises, whatever those might be, but we did learn how to plan our next river excursion.
Webmaster: stop@pacificrim.net
★★

SKYDIVE ARCHIVE
http://www.afn.org/skydive/
"If riding in an airplane is flying, then riding in a boat is swimming." If you're a whuffo, this is a great site for you to visit to figure out what that means and why you are one. This complete archive has an awesome photo gallery of formation, CRW, BASE and freefall images, skydive humor, FAQs, drop zones worldwide and articles relating to the sport. Beginners through USPA card-carrying members can use and enjoy this site alike. Blue Skies.
Webmasters: Bradley C. Spatz, Eric S. Johnson
★★★★★

WHIP IT!
http://www.visualradio.com/whipit/
This motor-bike magazine combines loads of editorial, "a secret photo archive" and Real Audio broadcasts to bring motor enthusiasts the latest in sports racing competition. The PJ1 Super Arenacross, Hare Scrambles, the Minneapolis Supercross Wrapup and more. Pretty cool, if bikes are your thing.
Webmaster: 72650.1440@compuserve.com
★★★

ARTSWIRE CURRENT
http://artswire.org/Artswire/www/current.html
This site is sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts and includes stories and news items collected from various sources on issues and politics that shape artistic communities. You can receive extended information on an issue by selecting the link that corresponds with the story summary. Images are rare, but sources are plentiful. The news information is published every Tuesday afternoon and serves as a good place to start your research.
Webmaster: David Green
★★★★

CAP WEB-A GUIDE TO U.S. CONGRESS
http://policy.net/capweb/
If you could park in only one spot to keep an eye on the White House, it wouldn't be on Pennsylvania Avenue, it would be right here at Cap Web. This cornucopia of links to government sources and information is an equal opportunity informant to the public regarding senator and representative info, current and pending laws in congress and voting statistics. Some GIFs are included and minimal Real Audio bites can be heard, unless you choose to silence your government like it attempts to silence you.
Webmaster: Jeff Heckler
★★★★

C/NET
http://www.cnet.com/
All Web-savvy individuals should know and use this site frequently. Ticker tape news updates scroll the top of the home page with current events and national/international headlines focusing on changes that affect technology and the computer industry. All the sections you'd expect to find in a major newspaper, with an added bonus of a CD-ROM library, are found at c/net with excellent coverage of the Internet. A no-cost registration makes you a member of c/net online and allows you to join the forum. This navigable site makes locating news stories quick and easy, with commendable results.

A no-cost registration makes you a member of c/net online and allows you to join the forum

Webmaster: c/net
★★★★★

FAIR-FAIRNESS AND ACCURACY IN REPORTING
http://www.igc.org/fair/
The media watchdog of them all is on the Web and is stalking politically charged language and inconsistencies/bias in reporting on a global scale. The magazine of FAIR, Extra, is also included in its entirety online at this location. Special reports on findings and articles written by the staff blend with online resources to teach you how to identify and understand the strings the media pull in order to create the response wanted from the public. The layout is simple and functional.
Webmaster: Michael Ernst
★★★★★

MONITOR RADIO
http://town.hall.org/radio/Monitor/
Welcome to the aural companion to the newspaper you learned to appreciate freshman year in college. Audio reports are available on worldwide news events with highlights of past shows in sound bites. Satellite feed schedules and shortwave feeds are available to located programs. Although there aren't any impressive GIFs, if you are searching for unbiased reporting internationally, you've arrived.

Webmaster: radio@csps.com
★★★★

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO
http://www.npr.org/
The NPR site was created with concise design and catchy graphics, complementing the concrete-solid content one would expect from the celebrated news source. Features include a "Breaking News" section with RealAudio bites of actual broadcasts, special features, such as interviews and full reports, and newly developed "Election '96" coverage. Rest assured, NPR online is not an island. Member station information and overseas broadcast and affiliates are all accessible through this portal.
Webmaster: webmaster@npr.org
★★★★★

NEW YORK TIMES ONLINE
http://www.nytimes.com
Like the newspaper: thorough, intelligent, insightful and entertaining. All sections of the regular paper copy are accessible via Web for the time it takes you to register online. Be forewarned, it is free now, but... . You can navigate the publication by selecting articles via links and past issues are available to download for $1.95 from the archives. You can also download the Lyriq software to play the NYT crossword puzzle on-screen or print it out for later. BTW, the crossword puzzle in this format is a lot easier to conceal from your boss. Oh, uh, yeah, just that marketing chart...
Webmaster: nytimes.com
★★★★★

PROJECT CENSORED
http://zippy.sonoma.edu/ProjectCensored/index.html
Some news is reported to activate people, to create an interest. Often these stories are kept under wraps for precisely that reason. For "News that did not make the news," stop by this site and bring your nerves of steel. This organization was created from Sonoma State University and attempts to uncover the dubious acts of censorship and expose what is blocked from the general public's circle of awareness. A chronological listing from 1989 through 1994 exhibits events which occurred and were not effectively reported on, such as the INSLAW scandal and the mysterious death of Danny Casolaro. Readers are encouraged to contribute information not currently listed and to consider aiding the project by assisting in archiving the lists from 1976 to current. Also of note is the timely telecommunications watch section.
Webmaster: Brian Wilson
★★★★★

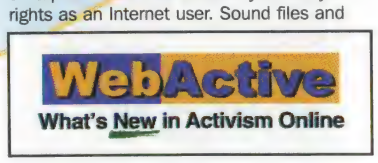
STREET CENTS
http://www.screen.com/streetcents.html
"They," the authoritative voice, are excluded from participating in this site. The Street Cents site is the online companion to the Canadian Broadcasting Corportation's award-winning TV series by the same name. The site is a teen-oriented consumer report focusing on issues important to adolescents. Teen news is current for today's issues and archived for referencing past stories. Teens, actually anyone for that matter, may participate in online forums and capture screen savers, sound bites and other cool stuff in the "Collectibles" section. Our favorite section was the article on a teen's rights if arrested.
Webmaster: Andrew Hartlen
★★★★★

THE WASHINGTON TIMES
http://www.washtimes-weekly.com/
"No liberal bias," promises this national weekly version of the daily by the same name. Much to our chagrin, we found plentiful conservative bias from "Washington's most fearless reporting team." Dull, yet readable commentaries are subjective pieces in newsheeps clothing. Don't look for pictures; the only visual is a shot of the cover. Noted writers participate and dish out the dirt; unfortunately the grime seems to be shoveled in the same direction each time. Somewhat like a broken weathervane, this site appears to have the potential to go in any direction, but only points you in one.
Webmaster: natletr@mcimail.com
★★

WAVEY'S WEEK
http://www.delphi.co.uk/delphi/wavey/
From the Mother Country comes, "A week on the 'net with Wavey," a pseudo newssheet of astute reporting on current events, weird occurrences and entertainment. Don't be mistaken; this site serves no frills reporting to an audience of truth-crazed infomaniacs, namely us. Enter Wavey's no-holds barred world forum and search news from previous weeks for post-dated fulfillment. Not a bad design either.

Webmaster: Davey Winder
★★★★

WEBACTIVE
http://www.wnia.org/
This Internet news site should be in everyone's bookmarks. WebActive is a weekly news publication dedicated to activist projects and reporting on the Web. From articles relating to halting Internet censorship to watchdogging the budget debates, this is a great source for staying on top of issues that concern you and your rights as an Internet user. Sound files and archived issues are available for downloading with a directory offering easy, quick references to information you need. Links to outstanding activist sites on the Web are exemplary.

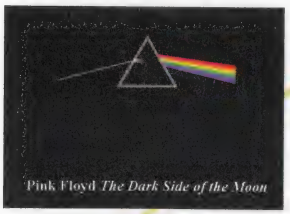


Webmaster: Jed Lewison
★★★★★

THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

http://rampages.onramp.net/~stevent/dsotm.html

You may be thinking, "What is this doing in the 'Microchips' section of the Webguide?" You are right to be concerned. What we are peddling here is the Voyager CD-Link. The Webmaster at this site has applied the program created by Voyager which allows your browser to control your CD-ROM player. Of course, you need a CD-ROM drive to fully utilize this site, unless you like reading lyrics and wondering what you're missing. Essentially, if you click on the sound icons, the program will skip to the portion of the CD where that particular quote or lyric exists and play it for you. And before you get excited, you can only use a CD which corresponds to the site, so don't try this trick with just any CD. Sounds like the wave of the future to us...



Webmaster: Steve Tanehill

★★★★★

EMBLAZE

http://www.geo.co.il/

New technology allows for real-time animation over the Internet. You can get the browser and the authoring tool at their site for free. Put your graphics in this format and your site downloads in real time. Cool, huh? They plan to sell it to the corporate suits to make some money.

Webmaster: Geo-Interactive Media Group

★★★★

ETHERNET PAGE

http://wwwhost.ots.utexas.edu/ethernet/ethernet-home.html

This is the whole story. Right here. Ethernet collective. The site was created in 1994 and is updated regularly, offering an all-inclusive guide to understanding and utilizing original 10-Mbps and 100-Mbps Fast Ethernet systems. Software, FAQ, reports, Usenet lists and troubleshooting numbers, ie. type and vendor codes, are the chapters in this complete work. If this is Greek to you, at least check out the illustration of the original Ethernet system.

Webmaster: Charles Spurgeon

★★★★

HAPPY PUPPY

http://www.happypuppy.com/

What a happy site. Really cool stuff such as the Telecom bill puppy picture and the Rat Mat mousepad retailer link can be found in this grab-bag of computer fun. Hotlinks to just about any type of shareware makes Happy Puppy useful in addition to being fun. The focus here is games, but the resources are serious connections to what you need and need to know. If you like the site and trust the opinions of the creator, The Pulse offers a Hall of Fame for viewing pleasure. Meow.

Webmaster: puppyprose@aol.com

★★★★★

INTERACTIVE TV

http://www.sun.com/OpenTV

From the people who brought you Java, now it's Open TV, truly interactive television. The technology allows viewers to interact via a hand-held remote control. It sounds pretty nifty and when we checked it out during the international Milia conference this year, it seemed pretty cool. Not a lot on their Web site about it, however.

Webmaster: Sun/Thompson Systems

★★

INTERNATIONAL PGP HOME PAGE

http://www.ifi.uio.no/~staalesc/PGP/

If you think PGP is illegal, you need to read on. While this site caters to non-U.S. computer users, plenty of universal information exists here, including a link to download PGP for U.S. users. The FAQ and background information is an excellent guide to understanding the secured public key-encryption program that many speak of and few can really explain.

Webmaster: Stale Schumacher

★★★★★

JAY'S COMEDY CLUB COMPUTER JOKES

http://www.halcyon.com/zylstra/comedy/computer.index.html

This collection of one-liners, flame form letters, DOS 10 commandments is a textual bon mot for bitheads and those who love them. Some of the witticisms have been passed around for so long they're wrinkled and torn, but a fair share of fresh material makes this stop worth while. Among the more exhausting links is the Write in C version of The Beatles tune "Let it Be." Tell us, just what is the Info Superhypeway?

Webmaster: Jay W. Zylstra

★★★

JOE RUMSEY'S MOUSE

http://www.atomic.com/~ogre/mouse.html

If you have absolutely nothing else to do, ever, you should see this site. The Webmaster presents statistics on the number of clicks each side of his mouse has received within the last several months. He also displays the distance his mouse has travelled in the same time period. Obviously, his mouse is getting around more than he is these days. Do us a favor Joe, trade in your mouse for a Volkswagen Bug and get some fresh air. We're worried about you.

Webmaster: Joe Rumsey

★

MACINTOUCH HOME PAGE

http://www.macintouch/com/~ricford/

Originally started as a Macintosh independent publication in 1985, this resource is now online, offering up-to-date Mac information and news. You gotta luva Mac to be here; items such as "Why are Macs better than PeeCee?" are not uncommon. A news archive and infinite lists of resources are à la carte the main course, which is the chronological listing of Mac news.

Webmaster: Ric Ford

★★★★★

PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEIR COMPUTERS MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF

http://adhocalypse.arts.unimelb.edu.au/horwood/george/coup/

The author of this site says it best, "Having an interest in computers is fine, but kissin' and huggin' is a No! No!" A light dusting of pictures depicting master and servant, computer and user relationships is about all you'll find here. The people presented look strangely carved from the same mold, somewhat reminiscent of the wax figurines pressed in the $2 machine at the zoo. It's a yawn, but worth a mild grin.

Webmaster: George Theodoridis

★

PLANET FUBAR

http://www.gil.com.au/~allan/hardware.html

The bit section of the home page "Censored beyond all recognition," is hardly as delectable as the black-out pages but arguably more useful. For any information on hardware, software, multimedia, modems and printers, this is your one-stop shop for links to corporate sites selling the goods. Bookmark this one for future use. We'd be interested in seeing how the

Webmaster would create censor-sensitive computer equipment prose. If anyone could...

Webmaster: Allan

★★★

R.S.I. PAGE

http://engr-www.unl.edu/ee/eeshop/rsi.html

If our wrists weren't so sore, we could write about this site for days. Learn the symptoms of and solutions to battling Repetitive Stress Injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome and other keyboard-related afflictions. The diagrams appear to be pretty useful, but how do they expect us to type like that? Sit straight, arch back, wrists sideways, head level? Try ankles crossed, back slouched, head slumped, elbows on armchairs, just far enough away from the computer desk to reach your Coke without having to break your posture. The list of Doc's who treat R.S.I. is quite useful if you already have problems. But remember, prevention is everything.

Webmaster: Paul Marxhausen

★★★★★

AC/DC HOME PAGE

http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~house/acdc.html

Affectionately known as the "Heatseekers AC/DC lyric page," this site offers extensive lists of self-interpreted AC/DC lyrics transcribed by the Webmaster himself. Not all lyrics are available, but there are enough. Enough for what? We're not sure. E-mail Argus, perhaps he'll know. "It's a bird, it's a plane, it's-—a suicide and that'd be a shame," is just one sample of the intellectual enrichment you'll find here.

Webmaster: house@acsu.buffalo.edu

★★★

ALL ROADS LEAD TO BEATOWN...

http://www.charm.net/~duke/xtc/beatown.html

Things we did on grass... come to mind as you peruse this companion to the Chalkhills XTC mailing list site. Whimsical XTC lyrics, covers and other band paraphernalia are links you'll find on this memory lane. Creative background patterns add spunk to the album section, including lists of the Dukes of Stratosphere listings. The Chalkhills site can be linked to for additional information, but most of what you need can be found right here. Dear god, may all tune Web sites have half the cool of this one.

Webmaster: Kirk Duke

★★★★

B-52'S

http://www.york.ac.uk/~dwe101/b52s/

Of all the sites you'd expect to see an out-of-control background... it's not here! The site's only graphical highlights are images of the album covers; dance this mess around Webmaster! It's the B-52s for chrissake. You might want to consider doing something meaningful, like volunteer for Peace Corps, while you wait for these images to appear. We rearranged the office, drank two Cokes and wrote jingles in the time it took the site to completely load. Unfortunately, there are no cool sound samples for your computer (and this had such potential). If you're patient, enjoy it. There are links and other distractions for the dedicated.

Webmaster: David Edwards

★★★

BAD BRAINS

http://www.computel.com/~whatsup/brains/

Designed for the boys of "rasta hardcore," this site is plentiful in audio samples and information about the band we sacredly love. The layout could be improved, however. It makes us nervous; we don't want to be anxious listening to Bad Brains. We would have liked to have seen more history on the band or some cool images of them in concert too. There are numerous links to other Brains sites if you want to do a comparison test.

Webmaster: Joly

★★★

THE UNOFFICIAL BANANARAMA WWW SITE

http://www.eel.ufl.edu/~rda/brama/

The whispering muses that taught the world that even delicate, pretty little angels can be vixens have inspired

the Webmaster to paint his pages with their glowing faces. An image catalog of the musical divas is a highlight and the album lists are replete with song titles. If this site is not enough for you, check out the links to other Bananarama sites for audio and video bites. It's a cruel...

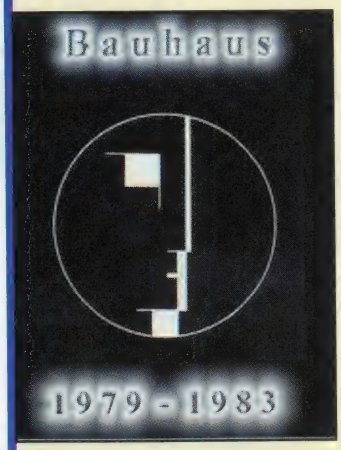
Webmaster: Rich Almeida

★★★★

BAUHAUS

http://gpu.srv.ualberta.ca/~mrau/bauhaus/bauhaus.htm

With all due respect, we had the most fun seeing who the last 20 visitors were. We thought we'd be the only



group awake at 3 a.m. looking at this site. Album cover art and cool images are abundant on this musical macabre site, but sounds do not exist on this playground. The graphics are dark and contemplative, somewhat like our lives where when we listened to "Bela Lugosi is Dead" in a continuous loop as tormented teens in the height of the band's popularity. Collectively, a good site.

Webmaster: Jay

★★★★

BROTHER'S GIBB SONG CATALOG

http://www.columbia.edu/~brennan/beegees.html

How deep is your interest? This site contains more information about the Bee Gees than anyone should ever need. A chronological catalog of career stages, songs and albums, producers and other musicians the trio and brother Andy sung with is detailed down to the latest achievements by singer Samantha Gibb, the daughter Maurice Gibb spawned. If you feel unfulfilled here, venture to external links to the brothers of boogie sites. This might just be the proof we've all been looking for; the Bee Gees are breeding and infiltrating the music world again. Tragedy.

Webmaster: Joseph Brennan

★★★

CASEY'S TOP 40

http://www.magi.com/~menardd/kclatest.htm

If you managed to sleep through Casey Kasem's ubiquitous Saturday broadcasts, you can pop in here for a nicely tabled rendition of what's hot and what's not on the Top 40 charts. Check if your favorite songs are moving up or down and what long-distance dedications went out over the airwaves. If you're the obsessive type, you can check out the archives of Top 40 charts, although in some ways that's just more of yesterday's news. We only wished there had been a sound clip of Casey's voice!

Webmaster: Denis Ménard

★★★

CHEAP TRICK

http://users.aol.com/melkel/

The Cheap Trick absolute collection is filled with band news, pictures, discography, tour dates and any other Trick stuff images you can imagine. The layout is organized and navigatable but the images tend to be darn slow when loading. This is an example of a standard music site, minus the sound bites; now it needs some pizzazz.

Webmaster: Melinda Keller

★★

808 STATE

http://www.feedback.com/808/

This English techno/rave band has one of the most information-rich music sites we've seen. With the potential to create shuddering graphics to match the tech-sound of their tunes, we expected a barrage of confusion. We are pleased to report graphic control, and dare we say, organization. Updates on the band and current releases are detailed, probably because the band maintains the site with the creator.

Webmaster: 808 State, Feedback Communications Ltd.

★★★★★

THE UNOFFICIAL ENOWEB

http://www.nwu.edu:80/music/eno/

"He just didn't come on like someone who keeps an extensive collective of breast bondage literature in the bathroom." Intriguing? Read on. The gritty details of "Eno's squelchy life" are uncovered with the same randomness as a shell game in a subway station, with the exception of Brian Eno's favorite porn magazine... you get what you expect here. Biography, books, magazines and images of the supernova complete the picture, disappointingly without sound files.

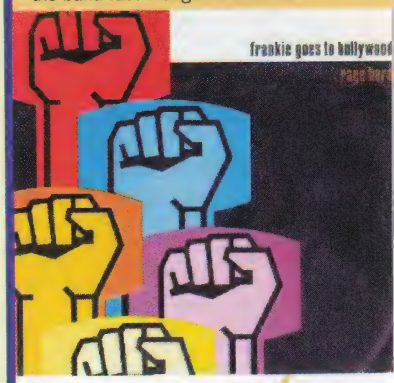
Webmaster: Malcolm Humes

★★★★

FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

http://www.cs.rulimburg.nl/~antal/fgth/fgth-home.html

An extensive history of the band known to "Say" just about anything completes this site down to a hyperlink for a summary of Frankie legal battles. The album listings, art work and other uniform music-site garb is displayed for the band-fact mongers with a few



extras, such as the link to the top 100 synth bands from 1978 to 1984. Cool sound snippets for many of the songs listed on album links are the real highlight. Relax. No censorship here...yet.

Webmaster: Antal Vanden Bosch

★★★★★

HOLLYWOOD RECORDS

http://www.hollywoodrec.com/

Just what you'd expect from the city of glitter, Lo-Fi, Hi-Fi or Sci-Fi navigating options on a largely graphical site. Like Hollywood, what you cruise in is 90 percent of who you are; so, get that 28.8 at least to be seen here and go for Sci-Fi. A disc list, tour information and limited background facts are found several clicks into the site. Full album listings and important purchase information such as the year the album was produced are among the more useful features. Overall, moderately informative and well-designed.

Webmaster: Hollywood Records

★★★★

WebGuide

IMMEDIA
http://www.immedia.com.au/
This site is a huge source for Australia's interactive information resource company. Music directories, cool links to music sources, entertainment and more, jokes, humorous lists, books and catalogs are base categories for links to seemingly endless sources. A great site for Aussies and others if music and entertainment information is your quest. Pleasingly functional and oodles of entertainment.
Webmaster: Matt Jeffries
★★★★

INTO THE FLOOD AGAIN
http://www.proaxis.com/~mcoleman/aliceinchains/
The Alice in Chains site is filled with ubiquitous music site stuff: album detail,

images of the band, fan club contacts and just about any other information a fan could need. For that matter, it is filled with lots of stuff an anti-fan would want too: photos to alter, interviews to copy, paste and reword and any other medium to deface. Check out the sound bites and bio information while you're here. This is a useful and attractive site with endless opportunities.
Webmaster: Mike Coleman
★★★★★

IRS RECORDS
http://rocktrolpolis.com/IRS/
Great sounds, cool design, logical layout but turn your screen on bright to see it. Wander through the mainstage, which features what appears to be the platinum acts on the record label, the below link, which features underground dance music and the ground level, which features world music such as Sif Safaa. The IRS Hall of Fame is a nostalgic moment and a super way to relive the '80s, if you really want to. We really dug the IRS T-shirts then and we like them even more now. The opportunity to buy one was well-received.
Webmaster: IRS MAN
★★★

J-UNDERGROUND
http://www.cs.is.saga-u.ac.jp/laboratory/kusano/irman/bands.html
This site is our Sea Monkey; we found it, learned about everything it promises to do and watch it consistently to chart its growth. This developing Japanese industrial/hard core music scene site is an awesome source for information about and images of bands such as ultra cool femme-plus-one-dude band Super Junky Monkey and other spitting-in-the-face-of-the-mainstream bands such as Hellchild.

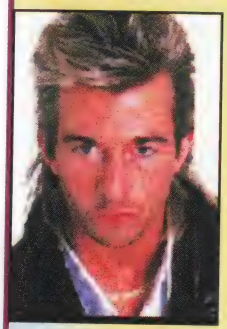
9[1]

Cool cover pix and album information are usually standard on bandsites; in this case, the info here is not easily found elsewhere, so relish it.
Webmaster: Armand (English) Kusano (Japanese)
★★★★★

JUKEBOX FROM HELL©
http://www.discjockey.com/jukebox.html
The Jukebox From Hell is billed as the "ORIGINAL place for Mobile DJs and die-hard music fans to exchange memories of past 'One-Hit Wonders' or songs that just make you say 'You Never Hear That On The Radio Anymore.'" The Jukebox was good for sparking impassioned discussion and impromptu singalongs around the *IU* office, but woefully short on sound clips. We especially liked the trivia question, where you're called upon to identify a random sound clip.
Webmaster: The Sound Connection
★★

KOSMIC FREE MUSIC FOUNDATION
http://peace.wit.com/~kosmic/
The first installation of the "cyberstudio" is what this site professes to be. The organization was started in 1992 as the Kosmic Loader Foundation with a goal of giving free music to anyone who wanted it via computer. Their search for other means of tune distribution originated with the dream of giving record labels the proverbial cold shoulder. Demos and complete songs, arranged by artist or year of production, are available to download from cataloged entries. With hundreds of entries already, the list continues to grow.
Webmaster: Kan Nieholson
★★★★★

THE UNOFFICIAL LIMAHL HOME PAGE
http://www.telepath.com/tiger/limahl/
We can't understand why our spellcheck didn't recognize Limahl. Didn't it understand



that this name is just an anagram for the '80s pretty-boy musician's last name, Hamill? We can't be too upset; we didn't know this either until we tripped into this Web site. As a matter of fact, we learned many useless things about the musician that sashayed his way to the top (?) by putting an ad in an English newspaper for attractive people to create a band with him. Don't get too excited though. Kajagoogoo, we learned disappointedly, means absolutely nothing. What do you expect from the mind that created songs like "Ooh to be aah" and "This car is fast?"
Webmaster: Tiger
★

ORIGINAL DJ PAGES
http://www.dma.be/p/amphion/dj/index.htm
Hey! No horrendous wedding reception grooves here. "Mony Mony" wasn't on any-

[tuneage]

one's list—put that pen and paper away. On second thought, this international DJ list could offer the variation you need. If Acid Jazz, Trance, Rave and Mind-Exploring tunes are more your style, this site can put you in

touch with spin doctors worldwide. Each DJ is listed alphabetically in a broad geographical area. Details of each individual include music style, e-mail address and home base. If you are a DJ or you know someone not on the list, additions are accepted.
Webmaster: Dimitri Vermeiren
★★★★★

NUTRA WORLDS SPUDLAND
http://www.nfinity.com/~nutra/spudland.html
Are we not entertained? DEVOlutionary. If it can loosely be related to the band that taught us taped glasses were progressive, it's here. Fuddleclustered backgrounds taunt the eyeballs, but it's only pain, and pain goes away. Lyrics, newsgroups and homemade DEVO products are among the features. It's a good thing this site is not an island; at one point, you'll need to leave. Suddenly and very quickly.
Webmaster: nutra@nfinity
★★★

RHINO RECORDS
http://cybertimes.com/Rhino/Welcome.html
The Rhino Web site is a work in progress but the catalog is up and running. By decade, genre or index, you can locate and order your selection online with little hassle. Dry album cover art mildly improves the overall appearance of this site, but we regret that we didn't find interesting artist tidbits or GIFs; we expect the final product of the Web site will be abundant. We anxiously await...
Webmaster: Rhino Records
★★★

WORLDWIDE INTERNET LIVE MUSIC ARCHIVE
http://www.wilma.com/
After you join the Intergalactic Freak Club, search this bookmarkable site by artist, venue or city to find where your favorite bands are playing throughout the world. A search by venue will produce information on how and where to find tickets, with careful attention to bar/concert hall capacity for your pre-show fire escape planning. One of the best features is the user contributed concert review section. Party on.
Webmaster: info@wilma.com
★★★★★

ALEXANDER PALACE TIME MACHINE

http://www.travelogix.com/emp/batchinson/

This site is a museum tour from the fifth grade minus the flattened peanut butter and jelly sandwich and the 600th rendition of "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall." This virtual excursion of the Romanov Dynasty of 1916 offers the quick introductory tour—the equivalent to the one-day pass to the Louvre—or the do-your-own-thing and wander through imperial bedrooms unguided version. Lots of images of the people who made the titles great and enterprising text that offers substantial background on the historical figures mentioned. Do meet Rasputin and see the Treasures of the Palace. It's most tranquil.

Webmaster: Bob Atchinson

★★★★★

AMELIA EARHART

http://www.ionet.net/~jellenc/ae_intro.html

The goddess-idol of females everywhere is honored in this well-constructed, concise site. Three basic categories, "Early Years, Celebrity and Last Flight," detail the life and times of the woman who taught us all that sometimes you must take your feet off the ground to reach for those stars. Antiquated-looking GIFs add a nice touch to this historical site loaded with well-structured, careful content.

Webmaster: J. Ellen Cotton

★★★★

ASK DR. MATH

http://forum.swarthmore.edu/dr.math/dr-math.html

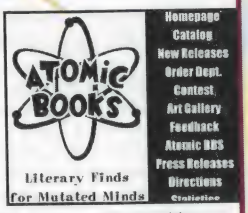
The Dr. Math site is an infinite guide to any mathematical questions/concerns you might have. Don't subtract from your already divided day by searching through useless textbooks. Add algebraic enrichment to your life by using Dr. Math to develop your reckoning abilities. Finding the surface area of rocks and designing a more efficient soda can are just two of the more interesting sections we found—just when we thought we'd never use this stuff again.

Webmaster: Sarah Seastone

★★★★

ATOMIC BOOKS

http://www.atomicbooks.com/atomicbk/



"Literary finds for mutated minds." If you are curious about how to start your own country or perhaps enjoy coroner's reports and evidence photos of mutilated murder victims, indulge; a complete listing of books, mags, catalogs, video tapes and other medium for subversive thought is offered at this site. Locations of book stores and products nationwide is also available with commentary on latest releases, press releases and more. Warning, this site contains gratuitous links.

Webmaster: atomicbk@clark.net

★★★★

AUTHOR'S LINKS AND INFO

http://www.empirenet.com/~rdaeley/authors/authors.html

From Umberto Eco to Gore Vidal, if he or she is considered a "great" by literary standards, the site will be nestled in this archipelago. The individual sites vary in quality and thoroughness, but they all offer more than the standard self-portrait and substandard "great quote" found at other author sites. This site is a virtual library card, at least.

Webmaster: Robert Daeley

★★★★

BUDDHIST POINTER'S FILE

ftp://ftp.louisville.edu/pub/it/listfiles/buddha-l/buddhist.html

What is the sound of one hand scrolling? Is it not better to use a mouse rather than a keyboard? This site is about all anyone needs, besides inspiration—which is not included—to become an educated Buddhist. More than 214 records to Usenet groups, BBSs, online journals, Web sites, books and Buddhist centers are available for viewers from a content list of links. There are no images or tidbits of info at this site; all must be sought and retrieved from elsewhere, perhaps nirvana.

Webmaster: Connie Neal

★★★

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

http://www.conservation.org/

Conservation International's site is a smart site—relaying the message of ecological conservation and preservation within 22 countries while asking for volunteers and donations at the same time. Links to special projects the organization has hosted and environmental concerns worldwide make this site educational and useful for research, story ideas, and basic philanthropy. The site does not preach, it educates and opens the door on a great place to spend some quality time. Check it out. You might actually learn something.

Webmaster: webmaster@conservation.org

★★★★★

THE FARNSWORTH CHRONICLES

http://www.edge.net:80/noma/philo/

A page out of history. This site is an attractive application of few, but noteworthy, graphics and well-informed text. The farmboy Philo Farnsworth cum inventor of video is documented all-inclusively in this historical work in progress. Eight installments are currently available and noted in chronological order from his birth through his early accomplishments and legal battles with RCA. Thank the National Online Music Alliance for this treasure.

Webmaster: Paul Schatzkin

★★★★★

GEMOLOGY AND LAPIDARY PAGES

http://www.teleport.com/~raylc/gems/index.html

No corny puns about this being a gem of a site, that's another magazine. From chemical composition to caring for and cleaning, this expansive site is an opulent journey from the rough beginnings to the refined endings that sit behind bullet-proof glass at those stores we always see on postcards. Value, the 4 c's, substitutes and reasons to collect are just some of the links to the wealth of information found within these pages. Visit this site and be the conversational star of every cocktail party.

Webmaster: John Miller

★★★★★

HEDGEHOG-O-RAMA

http://neuro-www2.mgh.harvard.edu/hedgehog/hedgehogmain.html

Meet Yona the African Pygmy Hedgehog. You'll find lots of hedgehog images here that remind you exactly how odd-looking, yet, beautiful in their own way, (No mail please!) they truly are. Yona's picture gallery features different hedgehog GIFs with the creature Yona in positions with human hands as props. Although a hedgehog e-mail list has been started for owners of the prickly pets, information about the creatures in biographic completion is not available. We simply need to know more; pictures aren't enough here John.

Webmaster: John Lester

★★

HISTORY OF CHINA

http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/welcome.html

Although the promise of coming images and sounds on this site is currently limited to a timeline graphic and a map of China, the content is impressively thorough and comprehensive. From the Xia Dynasty to The People's Republic of China, this endeavor addresses the struggles and triumphs of early Chinese dictators and ends with the communist rise to power through Mao Zedong in the 20th century. This is a great site for research or general reading, but will probably be more enjoyable in its multimedia incarnation.

Webmaster: Leon Poon

★★★★

HOW TO TELL THE BIRD FROM THE FLOWERS

http://cygnus.rsabbs.com/~dnewman/How/cov.html

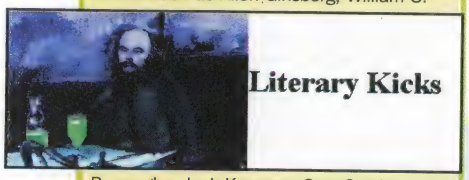
This is a comfort site that should become part of everyone's bookmarks. A cyberized copy of the 1907 book serves as "A Manual of Flornithology for Beginners." If you are still in a fog, each "chapter" of this book is a rhyme describing how to distinguish feathers from leaves. For example, in the "The Pecan. The Toucan" chapter, the prose begins, "Very few can tell the toucan from the pecan—here's a new plan..." We won't ruin it for you. Check it out for yourself, assuming you can already distinguish the monitor from the computer.

This is a comfort site that should become a part of everyone's bookmarks.

Webmaster: David Newman

★★★★

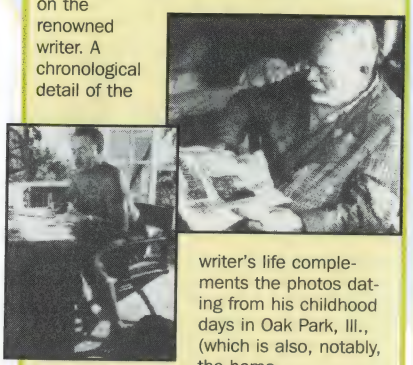
LITERARY KICKS
http://www.charm.net/~brooklyn/LitKicks.html
Uncommonly well-selected and written biographies complement images of the Beat writers such as Allen Ginsberg, William S.



Burroughs, Jack Kerouac, Gary Snyder and others in this commemorative site. Also available is an exhaustive list of books, articles and commentaries by and about the featured writers. This site serves as a great source for biographical information and interesting bits not often found in textbooks. External links are the backbone to this body of literary features. Hopefully this site will expand to include various writing genre and more individuals.
Webmaster: Levi Asher
★★★★★

THE MUSEUM OF JURASSIC TECHNOLOGY
http://www.mjt.org/
For all of the screenheads out there, this has absolutely nothing to do with Steven Spielberg. The museum, located in California, has dedicated itself and its Web site to the Jurassic era, giving rich content and loads of related images to anyone who is lucky enough to stumble upon the site. One gripe though, the backgrounds were attractive, but caused us some despair. We had to constantly adjust our monitors to be able to read the text on most of the pages. The wealth of information about the lower Jurassic period comes close to sinking in graphic quicksand with no branch nearby to save it. The only atoll is the membership page which is mysteriously legible. Albeit, it's worth the adjustments.
Webmaster: Not available (no e-mail)
★★★

PAPA PAGE
http://www.ee.mcgill.ca/~nverever/hem/pindex.html
Like peeking through Ernest Hemingway's photo album, the Papa Page appears to be nothing but lots of images, but is actually a solid compilation of biographical information on the renowned writer. A chronological detail of the



writer's life complements the photos dating from his childhood days in Oak Park, Ill., (which is also, notably, the home of *IU* art director Tom DeMay) to the ex-pat years in Europe and beyond. A simple hypertext list of contents makes maneuvering around this site a breeze. Of note are the links to other Hemingway sights and hangouts of old.
Webmaster: Marcel Mitran
★★★★★

QUOTES ET AL.
http://altantis.austin.apple.com/people.pages/cochran/ADquotes.text
Get real, how many sources for Marie Osmond quotes are out there? We had to review the site on that fact alone. We won't give away the punchline though; you'll have to look it up. This extensive list of 968 quotes from Oscar Wilde to Gloria Steinem can be useful for articles, essays or just time killing. This site is a tiny, textual island and does not contain links to any of the quoted individuals or to their home pages. However, with some good, solid keyword searches on your favorite search engine, we know you'll be fine. Besides, if you're here, you're probably on the Web almost as much as us.
Webmaster: Not Given
★★★

REVIEWS IN RHYME
http://www.datasync.com/~booda/rir.html
For movie, book and radio reviews check out this site for the latest news.

Bodily functions and plays are included if it doesn't rhyme nicely, its contents are booted.

Some are intellectual, some are conventional. All are exceptional (well...)

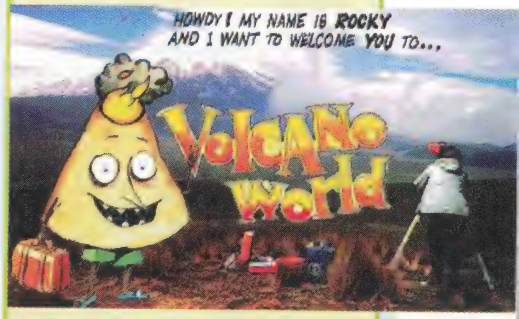
Submissions accepted, non-rhymes are neglected.
Webmaster: booda@datasync.com
★★★

ROYAL GENEAOLOGIES
http://ftp.cac.psu.edu/~saw/royal/royalgen.html
Tighten your corsets and dust your wigs as you follow the trail of mating cycles of the rich and highly-publicized blue-bloods in this hike up royal family trees. Numerous indexed links lead the reader to birth, death and marriage information of queens, kings and all the heirs they've spawned throughout the centuries. Occasionally, on a personal biography, a burial place or other interesting tidbit can be found to help enhance those crazed family vacations or drunken stupor road trips to tourist attractions. This site is easy to navigate and filled with completely useless information unless you are thinking of tracing your heritage back to medival times and think you might be able to cash in on the royal loot. A tech-happy nod goes to the site for breaking up the files into 25k sections for faster viewing.
Webmaster: Henry Churchyard
★★★

This site is easy to navigate and filled with completely useless information...

SPIDERWEBART GALLERY
http://www.spiderwebart.com
I will not have a short attention span. I will not have a short attention span. Repeat this several times upon entering this site, you'll need reassurance. If you have lots of time—this site is definitely worth it. Comic art, black-and-white illustrations and collectibles are on the menu of this artistic delicatessen. Profiles of the artists make the art you view more personal. But, for real intimacy, you always have the option to buy. Incentive to stay and look around is in the form of a $50 gift certificate given away each month to an e-mailer.
Webmaster/Curator: Jean L. Scorocco
★★★★

VOLCANO WORLD
http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/
"Rocky" the volcano is the host of the virtual tour of Volcano World, a creation of volcanologists, educators and students galore. This frequently updated site is dense with explorations, maps, GIFs, and just about any information and advice needed to spearhead your own exploration



or to get an educational degree enabling you to have perceived authority to discuss the geophenomenons in depth. Guidelines from high-school through Ph.D. levels are detailed for those interested in pursuing careers in explosive fields such as volcanology. This is a great-looking site with a logical, concise layout and valuable advice, such as "Don't be a nerd; enjoy life, but also be serious about your studies."
Webmaster: VolcanoWorld Team
★★★★★

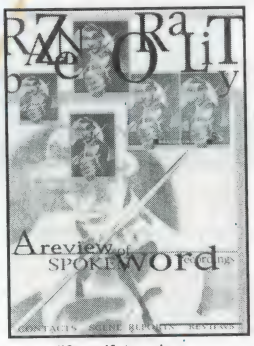
THE UNOFFICIAL ROBERT ANTON WILSON HOME PAGES
http://www.tcp.com/~prime8/raw/
Remember, "official" really only means "of an office." This unofficial site is the better R.A.W. site without question. Dedicated to the writer, philosopher, occultist, etc., this site professes to still be under construction, "but then again, so is the rest of the Universe," states the creator of this oasis. Headings such as "Schröedinger's Cat Trilogy and the Neophobia/Neophilia Quiz are just a sampling of the flavors inside. The essays and writings can easily occupy an hour or so—remember to block off time. We mostly agree that, "The brain is the greatest sex organ of all."
Webmaster: prime8@resort.com
★★★★★

THE WRITER'S WEB
http://members.aol.com/jinglefish/incoming/home1.htm
Numerous general writing sources as well as specialized genres such as science fiction, horror and journalism/nonfiction are available for all types of writers at this site. The sources include e-zines and various books and outlines on how to find the help your looking for. Unfortunately, the Journalist's page and the Showcase where writers may submit pieces are barely readable due to heavy fuddleclustering on the background.
Webmaster: Starrfishy
★★★★

['zines]

256 SHADES OF GREY
http://www.primenet.com/~blkgrnt/index.html
This one-year old 'zine from students of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, covers the avant-pop, literary and arts scene in paper and electronic format. The originators wanted this pub to be a community read, not just limited to academic circles. Solid poetry and opinion writings appeal to a broad, curious audience. Although highly textual at this stage, the 'zine claims to "appreciate" all submissions and encourages artists to e-mail art for possible publication.
Webmaster: Clifford J. Kurkowski
★★★★

BRAZEN ORALITY
http://www.infobahnos.com/~brazen/
This Canadian 'zine fondles your lobes as it blows aural pleasure into your ears. Audio bites are available to truly experience what Brazen delivers in this electronic version of the paper format already in existence. read spoken word reviews from the 'zine that brought the quote "Time is the purest and cheapest form of doom," into your life... if you dare.



Webmaster: brazen@infobahnos.com
★★★★

COMPLICITY, A JOURNAL
http://www.well.com/user/cheshire/
Produced by a writer/designer in San Francisco, this electronic publication is comprised of a series of short stories, a one-act play, theater information, reviews and samples of poster and logo design. This is a fluid site that looks good and feels even better—a pinnacle Web site from a design perspective. Links to other well-designed and scripted sites are a bonus. Even the graphics have literary value: "A logo is like a sonnet..." Definitely worth a visit.
Webmaster: Cheshire Dave
★★★★★

ENTERZONE
http://enterzone.berkeley.edu/enterzone.html
With a little encouragement from the public, perhaps this quarterly could roll around more frequently. The Enterzone describes itself in such a way that needs little adjustment—"Not just a warehouse with a lot of cool junk under tarps." Through the "Path of Least Resistance," a linear layout to the 'zine, or the serendipiter's journey, what the Web is all about, you can wander into and out of poetry, reviews, photo catalogs and links to other 'zines. Most interesting in issue five was the "Chicken Wire Mother" experiment feature, not to be missed at any cost (which is none).
Webmaster: editor@enterzone.berkeley.edu
★★★★★

FREEDOM'S HOME PAGE
http://www.woodtech.com/~tknapp01/
The Libertarian guide to politics in the electronic form. Just about anything you'd care to know about life, the universe and everything, politically speaking, exists on this boardwalk of information. Links to the Republicans, Democrats, Communists, United We Stand America and the Democratic Socialists are a crash course in government for even the inept. Tour the presidential candidates' home pages and the library of books and periodicals and browse commentary on interesting current issues such as same-sex marriage. Replete to the Nth degree.
Webmaster: Thomas L. Knapp
★★★★★

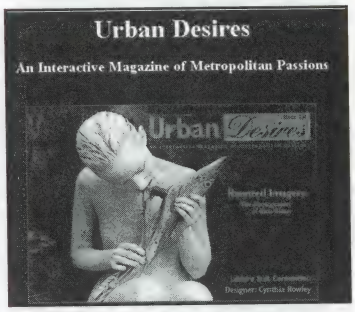
THE OPEN SCROLL
http://www.hooked.net/users/scroll/
Your source for political discourse and the source for previously unpublished work. This stock house of poetry, short stories and other expressions is heavy on imagery and loaded with content. A great feature is the poetry exchange; submit your thoughts ad infinitum and they will appear in their original incarnation for thousands to see. Be warned. Don't start dumping your high-school poetry class journal, a plethora of phrases such as, "Your heart cuts through my soul like an obsidian dagger," already exist here. Exercise your freedom of expression with caution and concern for the artistic community around you, please.
Webmaster:T. O'Connor
★★★★

PRONOIA
http://myhouse.com/pronoia/index.html
Zippies unite. This metazine caters to those interested in "Positive alternatives to paranoia and hatred." If you are paranoid of others conspiring to help you, this is your support group. A key to the Internet love fest is included, so use it wisely. By definition, the very fact that we review and critique Web sites would exclude us from this group of zippies. But we can come clean. We don't look at the bad side of sites first; we look for the good and try to be constructive. Maybe if there were twelve steps or something it would be easier...
Webmaster: John Bagby
★★★★

THE STICK
http://www.netzone.com/~tti/stick.html
With this site as a bookmark, you will need little else—for about a week. (Assuming you are a ravenous information whore.) The Stick offers six issues of great links, referred to as the websurfer's newsletter, software reviews, HTML tips and tricks and lots of other categories and headings to keep you occupied. The site is mostly textual, no cool GIFs for miles, so you can zip through quickly to absorb it all. Bring cache.
Webmaster: wm:tti@netzone.com
★★★★

THE TECH
http://the-tech.mit.edu/
Sometimes we can't explain the method to our madness. In essence, we review sites that inspire us, good or bad. Or, we review pages that make us angry, or move us to join, fight, cheer, spend money or have sex. We reviewed this site because it just so darn old. Since the Web is somewhat of a newbie, on the grand scale of things, we decided this electronic fossil could use some attention. MIT's oldest and largest newspaper, organized and written by student volunteers, has been on the Web since May of 1993. This 'zine spouts bi-weekly school news, national and world news, arts/entertainment and sports. The movie reviews are astute and the archived documents such as the full NAFTA accord are an interesting download, but unless you are enrolled full-time and actively pursuing the MIT lifestyle, you may see it to be a bit "insider" after the first couple reads. Gee, no pictures.
Webmaster: Archive Team
★★★★

URBAN DESIRES
http://desires.com/1.4/1.4_toc.html
This 'zine is so cool we get dressed up to view it online. (Yeah, right. Believe that.)



Deemed the "Interactive Magazine of Metropolitan Desires," Urban delivers hip graphics in a navigable style with a good selection of art, stories and urban insight. An extra feature found in most paper publications but in few e-zines is the food, style and travel section. Features such as "Leisure Suit Convention," can't be missed and add a certain j'ne sais quoi, completing this nymph of a pub on a seductively charming note. Note, this 'zine is best read with an extra-dry martini, an indigo smoking jacket and a hand-rolled Macanudo.
Webmaster: Gabrielle Shannon
★★★★★

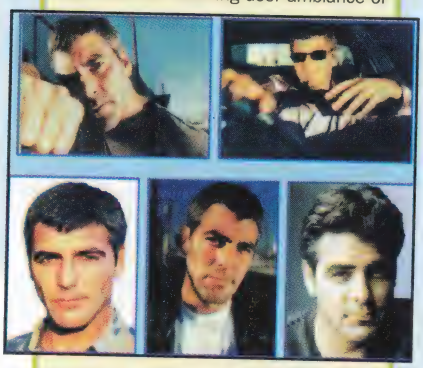
VIRUS
http://www.creative.net/~phlen/virus/1v1.html
PGP is not a four-letter word to this anti-copyright gazette also known as "A thorn in the side of intellectual property." The

masked marauders of anti-copyright pages are pilfering the Web in search of bits and pieces that are not under the iron shield of the law. Why? Because they can. Tips on how to create your own (this phrase does not really apply here) stolen site archive are included. The domain name reverse lookup is hours of fun.
Webmaster: Xi'an
★★★★★

LAURIE ANDERSON
http://www.voyagerco.com/LA/VgerLa.html
Laurie Anderson and Voyager create a savvy coupling of pioneering talent and a knack for the indescribable. Cool graphics complement intriguing content, lists of performance dates, a question/hint section for the Puppet Motel journey, Quicktime movies and a complete description of the Theme Park concept Laurie and Peter Gabriel are tossing about. Don't miss the audio files in the listening room and the opportunity to get to know the crew and set of the Nerve Bible page. Includes links to Brian Eno's and Peter Gabriel's Web sites too.
Webmaster: laurie anderson@voyagerco.com
★★★★★

PIERCE BROSNAN
http://www.mcs.net/~klast/www/brosnan.html
Looking down the barrel of a 9mm never felt quite so... charming. Pretty-boy Brosnan delivers his tough-guy persona on the home page of this Web site in full-Bond attire. The site has a celebrity bio, with more information than any person needs about the actor, and the usual where-is-he-today-and where-is-he-going-tomorrow scenario. Don't miss links to *Remington Steele* and larger libraries of Bond flicks. The site is short, sweet and just about the largest dose we can take.
Webmaster: Kimberly Last
★★

GEORGE CLOONEY
http://copper.ucs.indiana.edu/~mtsai/george_clooney.html
Much like the revolving door ambiance of



hospital emergency rooms, this site is a turnstile for other locations on the Web. A series of pretty good pictures of America's favorite TV trauma technician is displayed like a rack of postcards outside a train station ticket booth. Pick a couple images up and give your ticket to the attendant; there's no use standing around here too long.
Webmaster: Martin Aubert Tsai
★★

HILLARY'S HAIR
http://hillaryshair.com
The shadowbox effect used to display moving frames of First Lady Clinton's multiple coifs is a sentimental approach to what would otherwise be a perplexing

vision. Never fear. The fun does not end with the zoogyroscope of sorts; an "answer and win" Hillary trivia contest offers prizes of T-shirts or mousepads, but the real prize is the opportunity to vote for the "First Hair." We love America. God save the queen.
Webmaster: Mike W. Miller, James C. Schneider
★★★★★

DIANE KEATON
http://web3.starwave.com/showbiz/memorybank/starbios/dianekeaton/
Swimming through the advertisements at the top of each page and avoiding marketingspeak is the trick to navigating this course. The retro '50s graphics are formula for Starwave's site and add great flavor to the Keaton page; otherwise, the site would be dull with lists of the actress's films and performances from an NBC *Afterschool Special* to *Annie Hall*. Not irreversibly bad for a commercial enterprise.
Webmaster: Starwave
★★

BELA LUGOSI
http://www.cat.pdx.edu/~casey/horror/actor/lugosibio.html
A nervous background lurks behind the levitating words on this page of cinehorror. The Lugosi page is part of the collective Web effort named Horror Stars, and delivers all it promises. A comprehensive list of the renowned actor's films, from the early Hungarian *A Leopard* to the very American *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, itemizes the role Bela played in each production. If you are a fan of early horror films, don't miss this sight.
Webmaster: Casey Hopkins
★★★★

MULTI-LISTED FAMOUS CANADIANS
http://physics.bu.edu/~terning/Canadians.html
Canadian fame, and sometimes obscurity, in categories from actors to scientists is presented with facts, images, credits and enough information to put you in the know. The qualifications to becoming a link on this site are to have either been born in Canada or to have lived there for a "significant" amount of time. This comprehensive listing is a solid scroll of links that will make the "Famous Canadians" topic on *Jeopardy* a breeze.
Webmaster: John Terning
★★★

BETTIE PAGE PAGE
http://www.fantasies.com/bettie/bettie.shtml
The official Bettie site is chock full of Bettie merchandise: images (mostly drawings), books, fanzines and basically anything marketers have slapped her picture on. Most of the links on this site are index tabs that skip to entries on the same page, just a paragraph north or south; however, links to other Bettie sites are included if you want to escape and check out the competition.
Webmaster: Dave Holle
★★★

BRAD PITT
http://web2.airmail.net/~jimhoffa/bradpitt.html
"See naked men," is the grabber and arguably the dominant text on this site. We could not find Mr. Pitt naked in spite of the promises, but what we did find was his image is emblazoned on the site in 61 ways—always clothed, but sometimes appearing digitally altered. A true Pitt aficionado may find differentiating the real images from the altered versions an enticing way to spend some time. If you are not head-over-heels in love with Pitt, move on, there's no intelligent life here.
Webmaster: Matt Sooty
★

SILENT SCREAM
http://www.inch.com/~hepcat/steele.html
The unofficial Barbara Steele page is

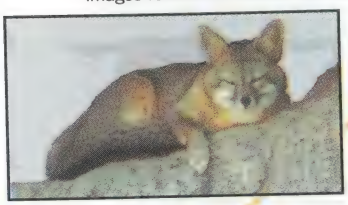
a captivating site with five home pages of movie posters, facts, plots, release dates and running times. Steele's early films such as *Bachelor of Hearts* and *The Pit and the Pendulum* are detailed without missing a beat. By the fifth page of the site, *Caged Heat* and *Piranha*, from the embarrassing '70s archive, make a grand entrance. Euro-horror never looked so good.
Webmaster: Dean Harris
★★★★★

KEVIN SPACEY
http://users.aol.com/macparrot/kspacey.html
Look no further for a typical celeb site. The categories are as follows: Bio, Stage Credits, Awards, Projects and favorite pet. From ubiquitous theater roots to a listing of the actor's current residency in the general Greenwich Village area, the Spacey site does not neglect to mention endless credits with room-temperature creativity. More enjoyable would have been greater attention to the actor's best role in *The Usual Suspects*, and less attention to details such as his dog named Legacy.
Webmaster: MacParrot@aol.com
★★

ADAM'S FOX BOX II

http://tavi.acomp.usf.edu/foxbox/

If you did a keyword search in Lycos for bikini-clad images referred to under the broad term "fox," you may be disappointed. If you are looking for four-legged furry creatures, stick around a while; you've found probably the best site for the topic—at least the most thorough. We did not review Fox Box I and we see that Fox Box III is on the way, so we've rated the current work presented under part II. Fables, stories, songs and lists of famous foxes or "Fox friends" are some of the categories in this Web tale. Let this be a lesson to keyword searchers; sometimes a cigar is just a cigar.



Webmaster: Adam D. Moss

★★★★

ALI BABA HAREM'S PERSIANS

http://www.geocities.com/Paris/1039/

If any *Internet Underground* readers actually use this site to find the Persian of their dreams, please e-mail us; we want to know who you are and what inspired you. Was it the strangely seductive cat picture? Actually, ordering a cat would mean you swam through the background well enough to find the address and telephone number, at which point we would commend your strength. Maybe we're hallucinating, but there is something unusually seductive about the fuzzy white cat picture. Hmmmm.

Webmaster: Karmela Topalovic

★

BEARD RESEARCH

http://mudhead.uottawa.ca/~pete/beard.html

The Webmaster control group, namely the Webmaster, created a hypothesis which was probably something to the effect of "If I shave my beard in the winter, I will not remain as warm as I have been with it in the past." He then realized that if he did not have the sensation of wearing a beard to compare the lack of having a beard with, he could not complete an accurate experiment. Hence, he shaved half of his beard (the proof is in the GIF) and resumed his normal activities such as skiing. Summary results include weight, wind resistance and temperature, but we won't ruin the surprise. Don't be shocked to find further research on this topic in the near future.

Webmaster: Pete Hickey

★★★ for effort

COMMUNIST PARTY U.S.A.

http://www.hartford-hwp.com/cp-usa/

It's so simple. McCarthy would be impressed with the progress of the people. With a click of the mouse, you can join the Communist Party of the United States and be on your way to "Unity in action." Resources such as the Communist Manifesto, an expansive historical bank with a wealth of communist text and the complete formula for messing with capitalist weather patterns (If you believe this, lock your doors and don't come out, please) can be accessed from this mostly textual, highly informative site. It is noteworthy to see how this site appears to help the Communist Party gain attention, somewhat contradictory to the communist countries that are working to control the Internet. "People before profits," is somewhat panned as the offer to subscribe to the *People's Weekly World* exists on this site. Altogether a great site.

Webmaster: CPUSA@rednet.org

★★★★

GREETINGS FROM THE NOTTES

http://www.niagara.com/~mnotte/

Straight from Italy, grandpa and grandma Web have arrived; this site does everything but pinch your cheeks, thankfully. Grandma Notte serves up her recipe of the week and a table-side image of the Notte's grandchildren adorns the top of the home page. Most pleasurable is the "Health Issues" for seniors section, relaying information about arthritis, gout and cholesterol to elderly or curious readers. No list, including the Notte's, would be replete without the ubiquitous links to the unusual, the search engines of choice and the "favorites." Brother John's war diary is a bountiful discovery and is readable in English and Italian. Mike, Alba and the grandchildren are so cool.

Webmaster: Mike Notte (Cybergramps)

★★★★★

HOME PAGE OF HUNK MATERIAL

http://spicerack.sr.unh.edu:80/~iar/

From the man who professes to use 16 percent of his brain, Ian Arthur Rohrbacher created this site for some apparent reason, perhaps disclosed in the unused 84 percent. His telephone number is at the top of the home page, that could be it. Limited links to Nowhere Man and similar entities are an expressway out of this town of visual persuasion. We suggest a use for the unused portion of the brain behind this machine: focus on content and forget the background ballyhoo. Albeit, we can't be too critical; he probably is very bright and he does bring us links to other sites. Yum.

Webmaster: Ian Arthur Rohrbacher

★★

HOUSE B

http://www.umr.edu/~houseb/

Advocates of the freedom of expression may feel the test of faith with this site. The creators of this site are members of a fraternity, or at least they play one on the Web, and the pages are useless. But, they have the right to display it, and we did click every damn room. House B is nothing more than a floor plan in which the viewer can click on individual rooms to find out who or in many cases, what's inside. After we clicked every option, we found the index of the frat residents at the end of the page. Ocassionally, audio embellishment is available, if you like bodily functions and the sounds that grace them. Most ironic is the thief's inventory that the creators have unsuspectingly supplied, detailing the number of VCRs and CDs, not to mention porno magazines, that are in the house. While this may just be a virtual rendition of a fraternity house, we have no doubt a reasonable facsimile exists somewhere in reality.

Webmaster: HouseB@umr.edu

★

THE LIGHTHOUSE

http://the-tech.mit.edu/Weather/

Current national weather can be accessed at any time from this site. By typing in the state or airport code that you live in, you can find out whether you should stay inside and surf the Web or get out and interact in the sunshine with real, living and breathing humans. The wind chill chart is really nifty, guys, but come on, like a sunny day will pull us away from our computers. Getreal.com

Webmaster: Thomas R. Karlo

★★★★

NAIL'S CAVE

http://www.eden.com/~nail/

Webmaster Nail has prepared a banquet for hungry surfers. He is serving links to his favorite twisted sites, his friend Kira's diary of getting her tongue pierced and the chance to pay homage to his late puppy "Spritz" who drowned in the hot tub while retrieving a toy. Surprisingly, we found the APL stock quote server among his tray of goods. This is a great way to spend some time; when you get bored with the links above, turn to the BDSM link.

Webmaster: Nail

★★★★★

PROOF THAT BILL GATES IS THE ANTI-CHRIST

http://www.ttinet.com/pjf/666.html

As if we really needed further proof? These "experts" deliver numerological evidence that the prince of PC is in fact the demon of biblical text. According to examples on this site, MS-DOS 6.21, Windows 95 and System 7.0 all have a numerological value of "666," affectionately know as the number of the beast. Evidence from Bill's full name in ASCII values nails the coffin shut.

Webmaster: Not Given

★

WHY ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR DIRTY WORDS?

http://www.algonet.se/~moocher/dirty.html

This site is a very short list of terms the FCC considers a no-no and other words that have been granted "foul" status by the Webmaster, such as the term "Bill Gates." A brief note states that within the first 24 hours of its existence, the site received 300 accesses, which we all know means very little and does not even compare to the hits the Striptease page sets. Look where that ended up… let this be a lesson. Substance substance substance.

Webmaster: moocher@algonet.se

★ ☺Because we're bitter that we were caught searching for useless items and flagrant obscenities. We have a reputation…)

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Help

Netsite: http://Web_pages.we're_glad_we/can't.find!

What's New! What's Cool! Upgrades Net Search Net Directory Newsgroups Handbook

The Pauly Shore Appreciation Society Homepage

Maligned by the press, bashed by critics, but adorned by legions of discerning filmgoers, in just five movies Pauly Shore has produced an unparalled body of work.

Click on one of the links below for full-length explorations of Shore's films:

BioDome

Searing indictment of the impending environmental crisis, Shore's latest cinematic achievement finds the young actor in his most demanding and rewarding role of his storied career.

Jury Duty

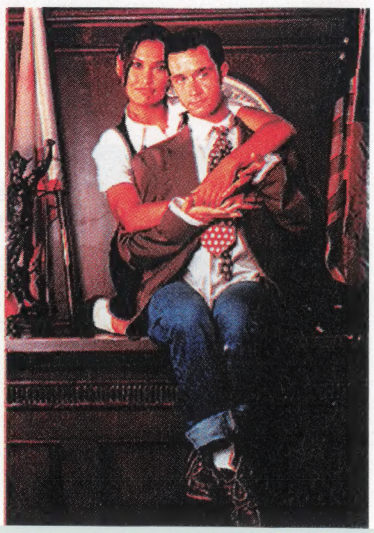
Shore's delicious send-up of the U.S. justice system. When viewed in light of the Simpson trial, this opus takes on a whole new level of relevance.

In the Army Now

Samson may have lost his power after his hair was trimmed, but not so for Shore, as he pulls a dramatic coup in this classic retelling of *Stripes*.

Encino Man

Shore's histrionic debut is often overlooked in light of his recent triumphs. Yet despite sub-par art direction, the wit, charm and dramatic range that have marked his later works come through in this hilarious romp.



Son-In-Law

Cast out of character as an obnoxious goof-off, Shore displays his full range of dramatic wares in this loose interpretation of *Green Acres*.

To join the Pauly Shore Appreciation Society, send your name and address plus $5 dues to:

PSAS
1060 W. Addison
Chicago, IL 60613*

MIRSKY PRESENTS

MORE INTERNET KOOKS

Inspired by this issue's article on The Kooks Museum—see page 66

While these kooks don't espouse doomsday theories or tall tales of alien abductions, their actions defy rational explanation. So here are my nominations for admittance.

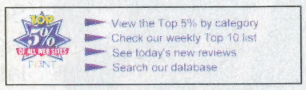
Marc Andreessen. Has stock worth millions of dollars and earns a VP's salary at Netscape, yet *still* refuses to pay anyone to design him a Web page. (His home page contains nothing but a 46K GIF of his face, reproduced here. It's been this way since at least August.) **http://www.netscape.com/people/marca/**

Netscape stockholders. Many bought the stock without knowing what a browser was or how to navigate the Web. They hyped it so much that the price keeps going up to absurd levels. Yet the crazed expressions on their faces remain even when you tell them the company hasn't made any money.

Glenn Davis. His delusions are growing. First it was Cool Site of the Day. Now, it's Project Cool. Pretty soon he's going to start to think *he's* cool.

The marketing people at IBM. They're convinced more consumers will buy their computers now that they're endorsed by Bob Denver and, oh yeah, foreign nuns.

Reviewers, Point Communications. The people who give out the "Top 5% Pages on the Web" awards. Among their picks are pages for Buzz the Fly, a bathroom-humor cartoon about the life of a fly, *CHiPs* Online, The Gamera Web Page,



50 Years of Band-Aid (a page about finding some old Band-Aid boxes in a basement), Bluedog Can Count, (a dumb barking dog) and Prodigy Web Personals, probably the last place anyone would want to go looking for a mate online.

Dr. Michael Maudlin, Lycos Communications. Because he purchased the Point Communications.

@large

Apple Computers. Recently changed the name of their new Open-Doc Internet software from the exciting, unusual "Cyberdog" to the dull, generic "Internet Pathfinder." Frankly, I think their problem is that they're no longer kooky *enough*.

Bill Gates. How can this guy not be a kook? He can afford to use any operating system in the world, but chooses Windows 95.

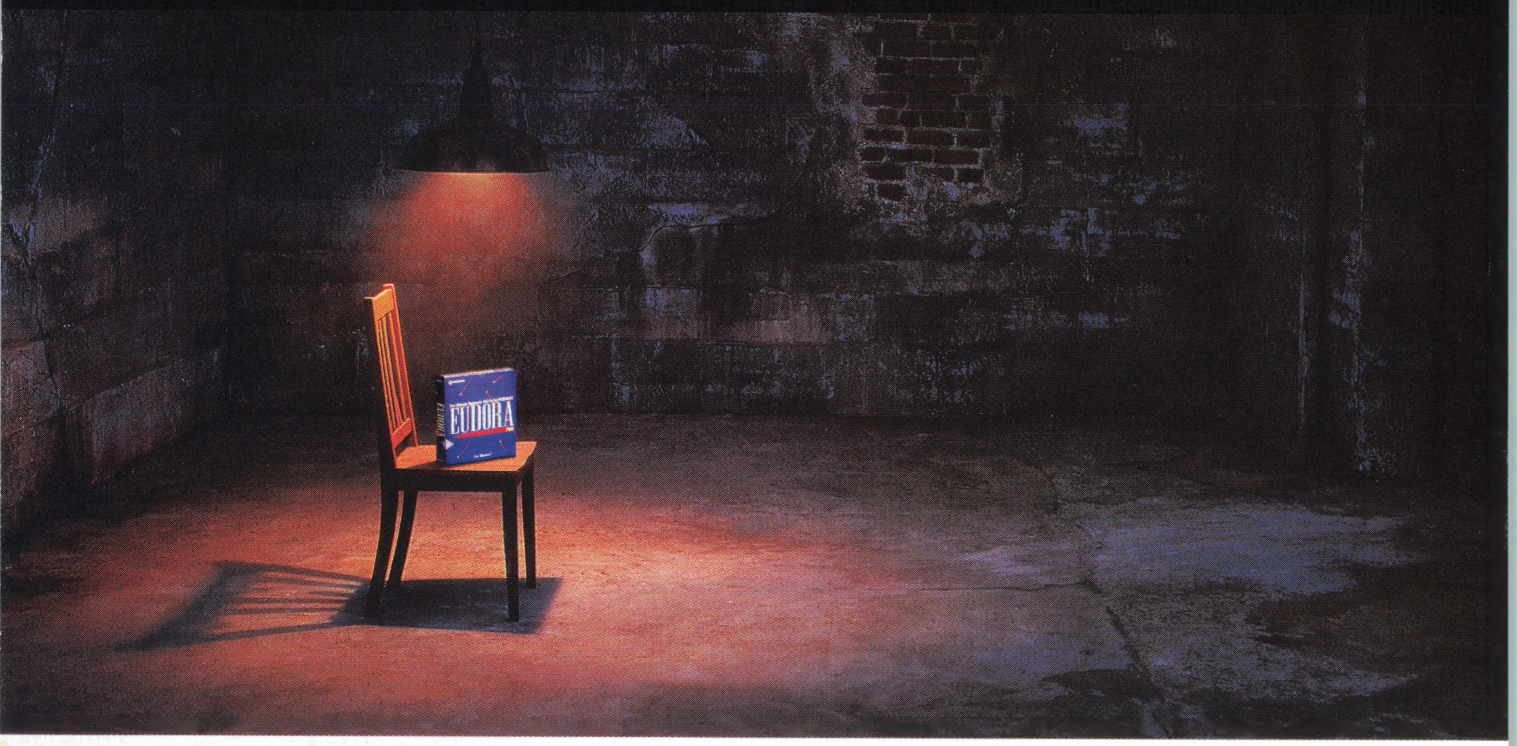
The editors of *Internet Underground*. Just look at who they picked to write this column. That alone should get them all locked up.

Steve Case. Thinks that marketing America Online in Europe with just the initials "AOL" is going to fool the residents of an entire continent.

Adam Curry. Fanatically believes in the power of being an ex-MTV VJ. The sad thing is, he hasn't been proven wrong.

YOU CAN CHECK OUT MIRSKY'S DAILY RANTS AT HIS SITE, THE WORST OF THE WEB AT http://mirsky.turnpike.net/wow/Worst.html

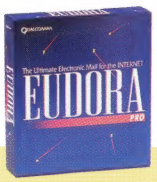
INTERNET USERS ARE NOTORIOUSLY PICKY ABOUT E-MAIL.



BUT SOMEHOW WE SATISFIED 10 MILLION OF THEM.

If an e-mail program can survive the merciless scrutiny of the Internet community, it's got to be good. Unlike many other e-mail packages, Eudora Pro™ is an open, standards-based e-mail application designed specifically for the Internet. It has all the powerful features you'll ever need. Yet it's extremely easy to use.

Eudora Pro lets you attach sound, graphics, or video files to any message and automatically launches them in their applications. It also separates your urgent memos from your regular ones with rules-based message filters. You even get a built-in spelling checker and a customizable address book.



"Cleanly implemented and simple to use, Eudora has become one of my favorite tools for cruising the net."
–PC World

"Eudora is the pioneer Internet e-mail..." –MacUser

4½

Eudora Pro also includes step-by-step online help and 90 days of free technical support. Want more information about our award-winning Windows and Macintosh versions? Just call **1-800-2-EUDORA, ext. 86020**. Or send us e-mail at eudora-sales17@qualcomm.com. Or visit our Web site at www.qualcomm.com/quest. QUALCOMM

Information regarding the number of Eudora users provided by the *Third MIDS Internet Demographic Survey*, December 1995. QUALCOMM Enterprise Software Technologies, 6455 Lusk Blvd., San Diego, CA 92121-2779 USA.

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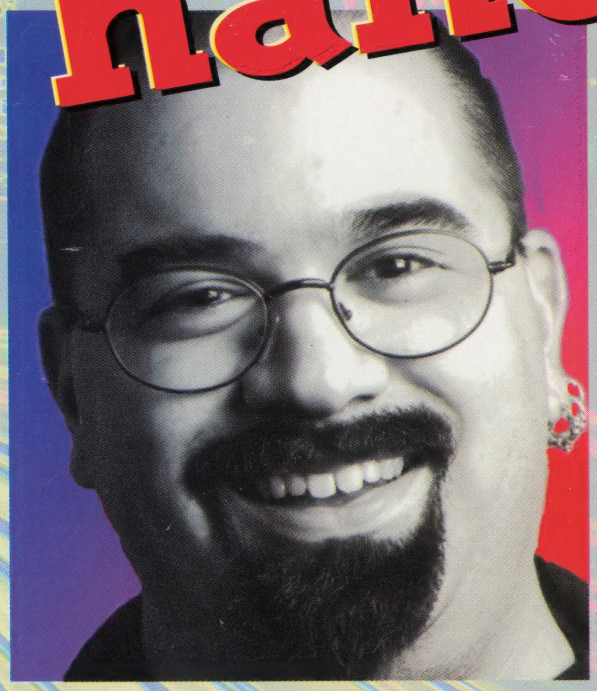
"I wanna hold your hand!"



John Fonseca
Chief of Tech Support
IDT Internet

Of course IDT Internet gives you unlimited time, unlimited access and free Netscape for as little as $21.75/month.

But we give you something much more important ... Unlimited tech support.

By unlimited we're not just referring to time.

We're talking quality time.

Because unlimited tech support is worthless when your techies are limited.

I'm John Fonseca -- chief of IDT Internet tech support.

Some of my people have shaved heads, rings in their noses, tattoos on their tukkis.

Some wear turbans and talk with funny accents.

Some wear yarmulkas and take breaks for prayer.

But they all have two things in common--

-- brains up the wazoo ...

... And a real desire to hold your hand through any problem.

So if you wanna hold hands with a 180 IQ punk, a braniac from the Indian subcontinent, or an ex-rabbi who thinks at 100 mhz, there's only one way to go.

IDT Internet. Totally unlimited.

IDT Unlimited Internet

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- No gimmicks
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- World's fastest response time

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